J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

C.P. SMITH

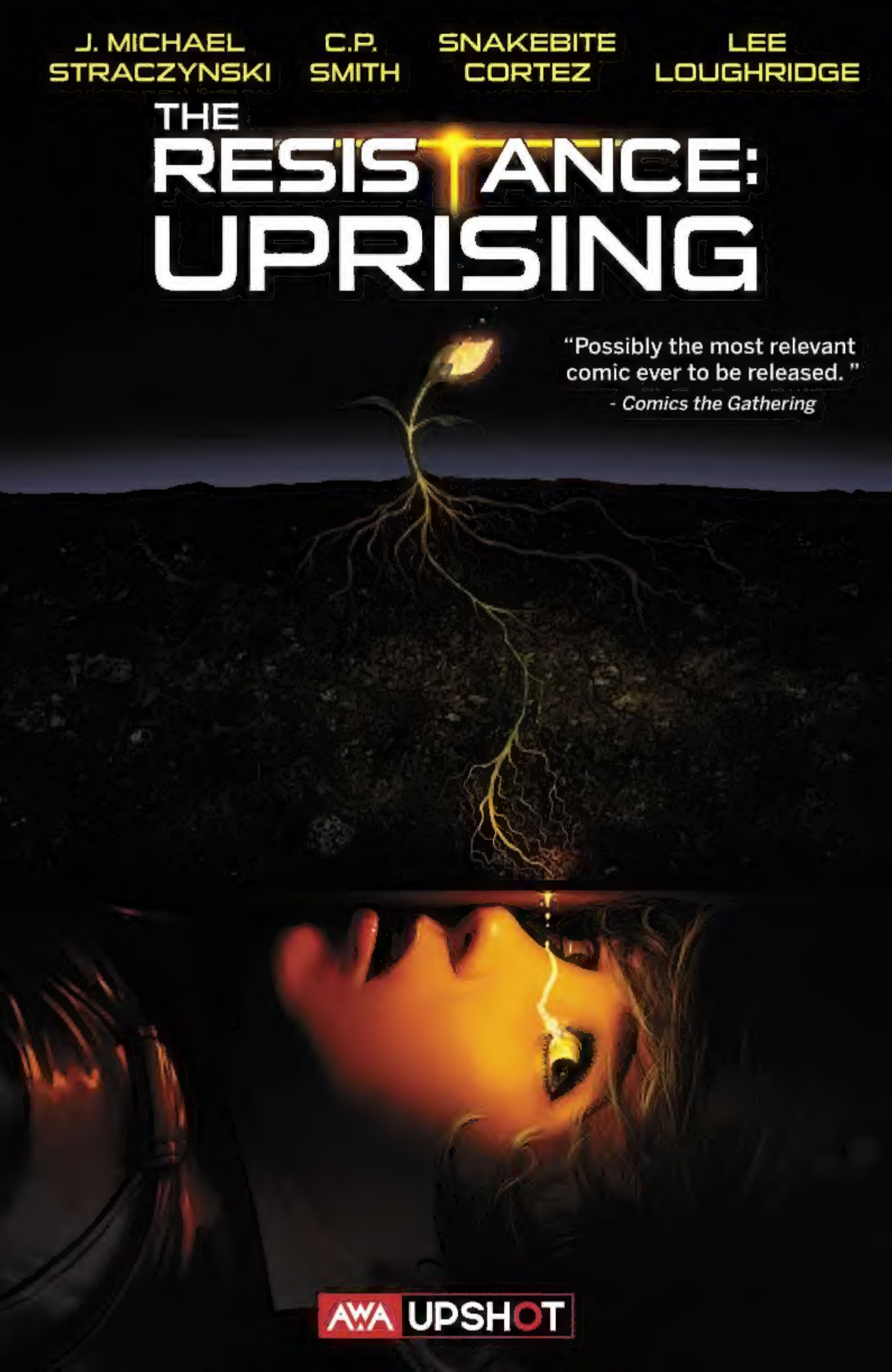
SNAKEBITE CORTEZ

LEE LOUGHRIDGE

# THE RESISTANCE: UPRISING

"Possibly the most relevant comic ever to be released."

*- Comics the Gathering*



AWA UPSHOT

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PRESENTS
THE
RESISTANCE:
UPRISING
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C.P. SMITH
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Colorist (Issue #1–#3)
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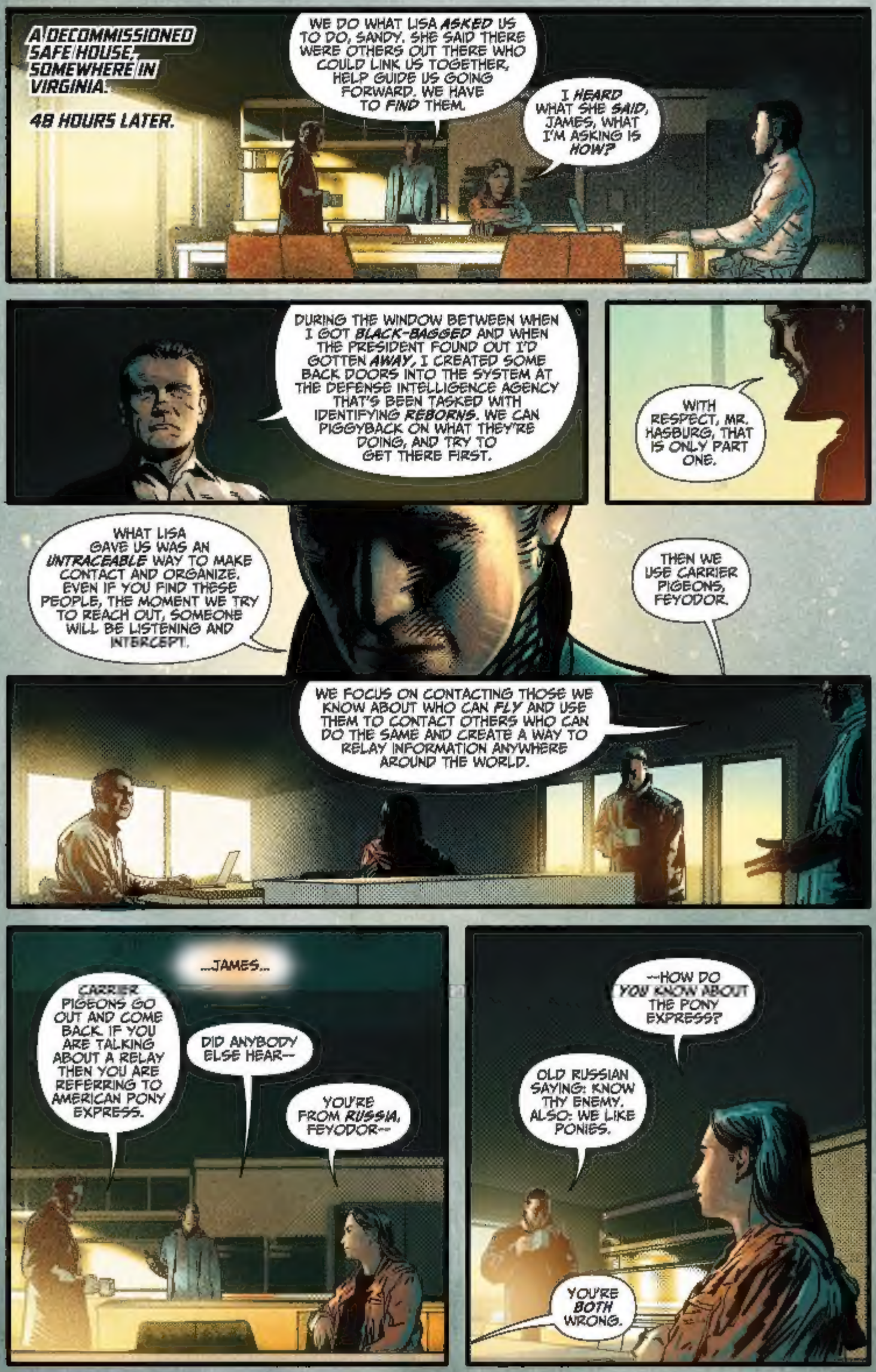
Cover Artist

LISTEN... EVERYONE... LISTEN TO ME...
...DON'T LET THIS...STOP YOU...DON'T STOP FIGHTING...DON'T STOP RESISTING. YOU MAY BE...THE LAST HOPE...THIS WORLD HAS.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN...DO FOR ME. I'M ALREADY GONE...BUT THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE ME...WHO CAN BRING YOU TOGETHER...THEY'RE AFRAID TO COME OUT BUT THEY'RE THERE...FIND THEM...LET THEM KNOW THEY'RE SAFE. LET THEM KNOW--
--LET THEM KNOW IT'S THEIR TURN. LET THEM KNOW...
...THEY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.
"SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?"


A DECOMMISSIONED SAFE HOUSE, SOMEWHERE IN VIRGINIA.
48 HOURS LATER.
WE DO WHAT LISA ASKED US TO DO, SANDY. SHE SAID THERE WERE OTHERS OUT THERE WHO COULD LINK US TOGETHER, HELP GUIDE US GOING FORWARD. WE HAVE TO FIND THEM.
I HEARD WHAT SHE SAID, JAMES, WHAT I'M ASKING IS HOW?
DURING THE WINDOW BETWEEN WHEN I GOT BLACK-BAGGED AND WHEN THE PRESIDENT FOUND OUT I'D GOTTEN AWAY, I CREATED SOME BACK DOORS INTO THE SYSTEM AT THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY THAT'S BEEN TASKED WITH IDENTIFYING REBORNS. WE CAN PIGGYBACK ON WHAT THEY'RE DOING, AND TRY TO GET THERE FIRST.
WITH RESPECT, MR. HASBURG, THAT IS ONLY PART ONE.
WHAT LISA GAVE US WAS AN UNTRACEABLE WAY TO MAKE CONTACT AND ORGANIZE. EVEN IF YOU FIND THESE PEOPLE, THE MOMENT WE TRY TO REACH OUT, SOMEONE WILL BE LISTENING AND INTERCEPT.
THEN WE USE CARRIER PIGEONS, FEYODOR.
WE FOCUS ON CONTACTING THOSE WE KNOW ABOUT WHO CAN FLY AND USE THEM TO CONTACT OTHERS WHO CAN DO THE SAME AND CREATE A WAY TO RELAY INFORMATION ANYWHERE AROUND THE WORLD.
...JAMES...
CARRIER PIGEONS GO OUT AND COME BACK. IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A RELAY THEN YOU ARE REFERRING TO AMERICAN PONY EXPRESS.
DID ANYBODY ELSE HEAR--
YOU'RE FROM RUSSIA, FEYODOR--
--HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PONY EXPRESS?
OLD RUSSIAN SAYING: KNOW THY ENEMY. ALSO: WE LIKE PONIES.
YOU'RE BOTH WRONG.

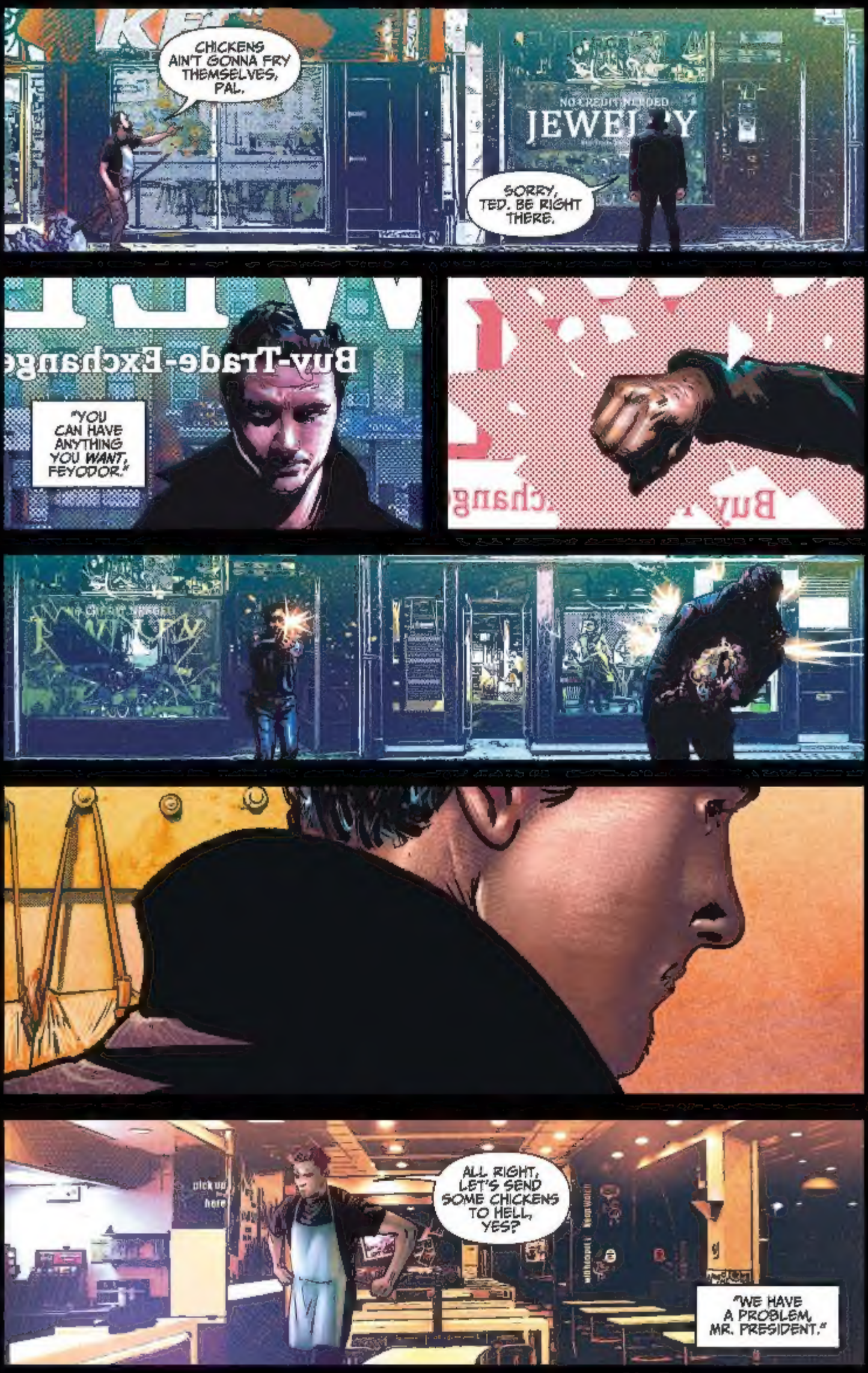
IT'S MORE LIKE WHEN THEY LIGHT THE BEACONS IN *LORD OF THE RINGS*. ONE SEES THE NEXT AND INSTANTLY SENDS IT ON DOWN THE LINE.
WHAT?
OKAY, YEAH, I WORKED FOR THE PENTAGON FOR TEN YEARS BUT I ALSO READ BOOKS, YOU KNOW.
SO WHO DO WE KNOW NOW WHO CAN FLY?
I CAN.
THAT WASN'T WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU FILLED OUT THE FORM FOR THAT POWERED TEMP AGENCY.
ANYONE WHO HASN'T LIED ON AN EMPLOYMENT FORM, RAISE YOUR HAND.
SO THAT *WAS* A GOVERNMENT OPERATION!
YEP. *VENUS FLYTRAPS*, DESIGNED TO LURE IN REBORNS WITH *POWERS* SO THEY CAN BE CATALOGED.
ANYONE ELSE?
CRAP.
OKAY, I CAN FLY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER MENTION THIS, SANDY?
*BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF HEIGHTS, OKAY? HAPPY NOW?*
*BOZHE MOI!*
SO... ANOTHER OF YOUR POWERS IS SOUNDING LIKE A GRENADE GOING OFF?
UP YOURS.

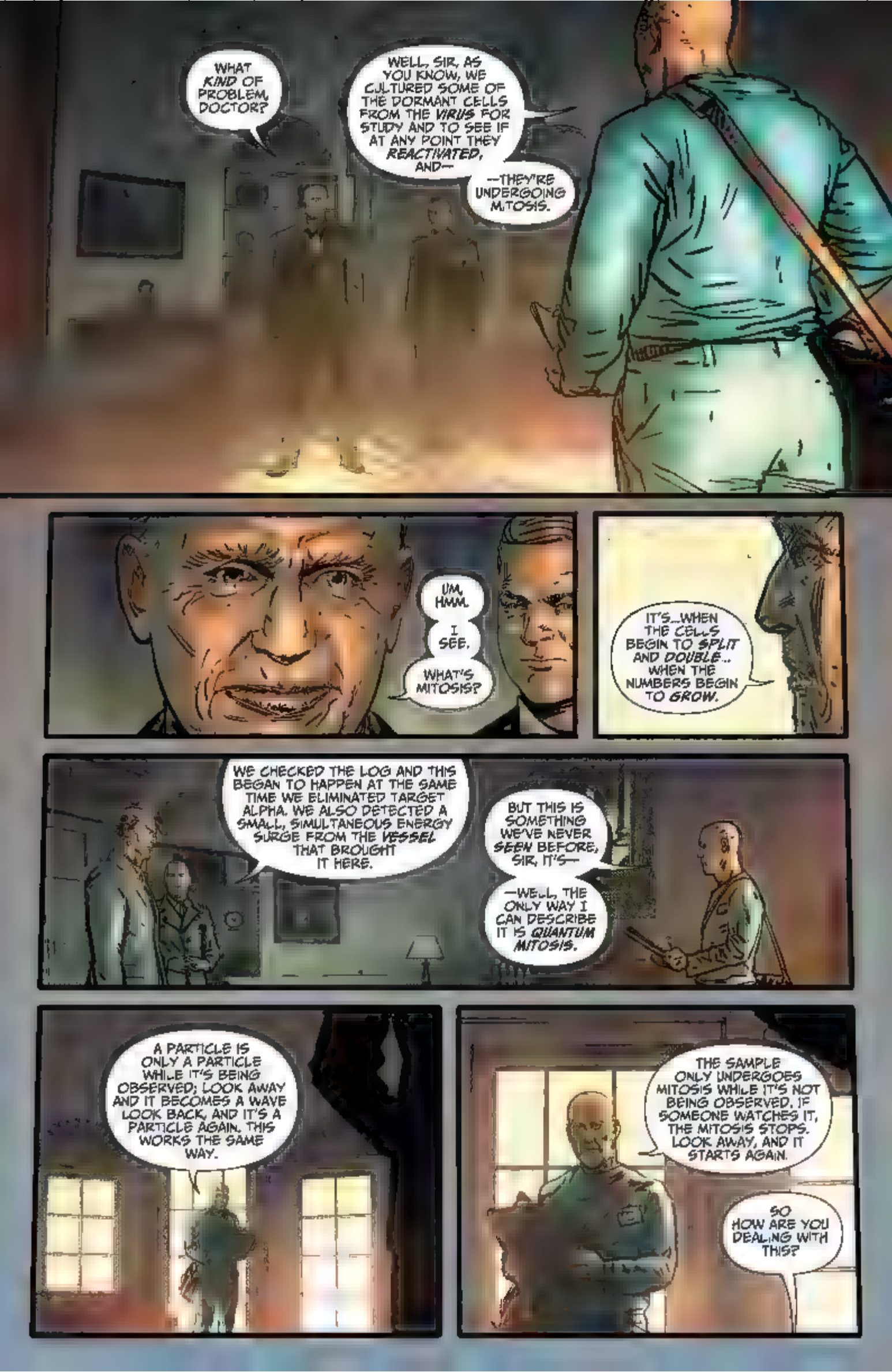
OKAY, SO WE HAVE A PLAN. THAT'S MORE THAN WE HAD TWO DAYS AGO. AND IT'S GOING TO BE CRUCIAL TO YOUR SURVIVAL.
IN ANY CONFLICT, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO IS IDENTIFY THE ENEMY AND POTENTIAL ALLIES.
"RIGHT NOW, EVERY GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO FIND AND IDENTIFY YOU.
PARE
"SO JOB NUMBER ONE GOING FORWARD IS FOR YOU TO FIND OTHERS LIKE YOU...BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT FINDS THEM."
MEANWHILE, IF YOU CAN THINK OF ANY OTHER FLIERS, YOU SHOULD LET ME KNOW ASAP.
WHOEVER THEY MIGHT BE.
...JAMES...
YOU ALL RIGHT, JAMES, YOU LOOK—
I...I'M OKAY.
GOOD. CLASS DISMISSED.

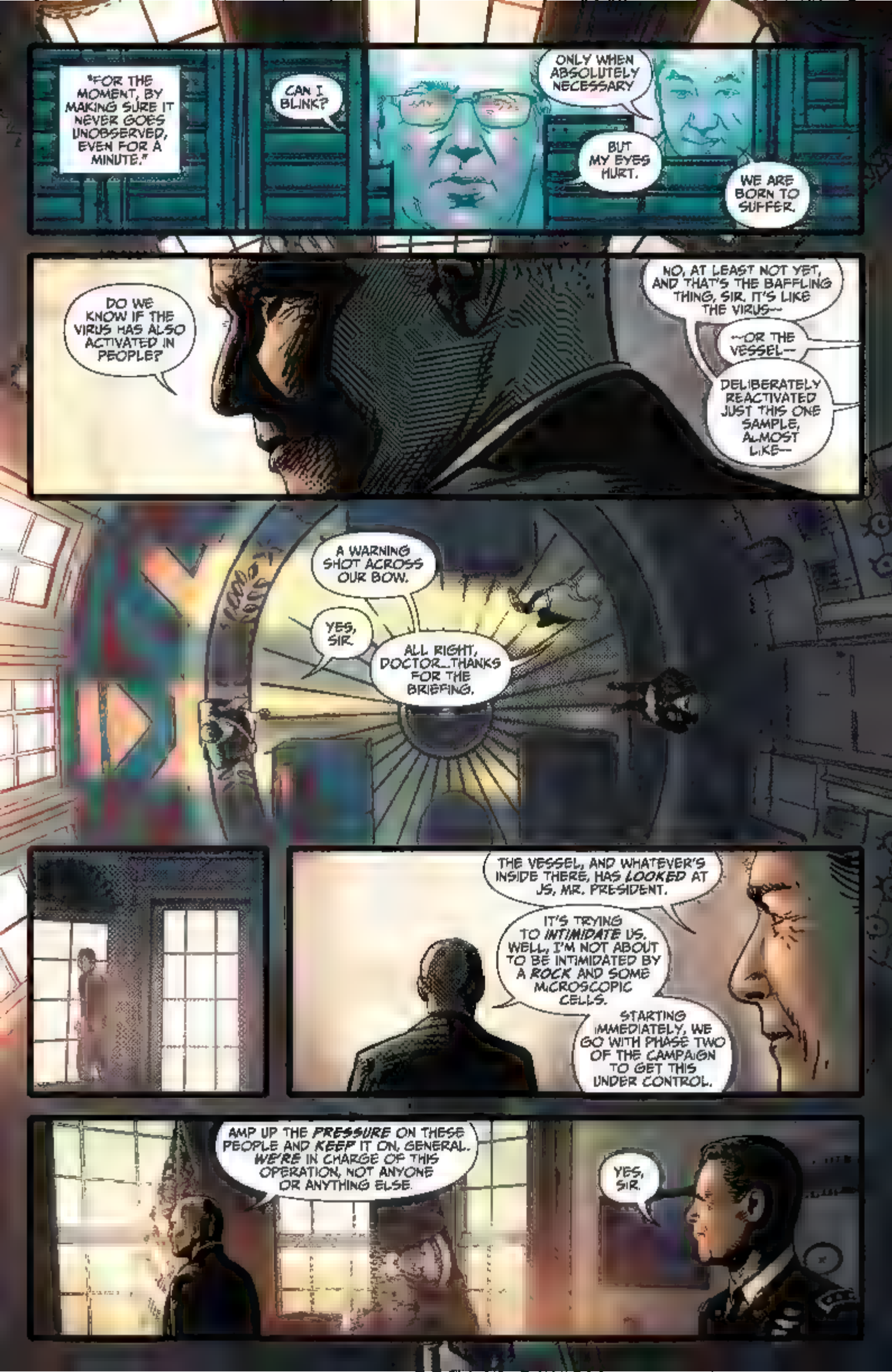
DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA.
Buy-Trade-Exchange
"YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT, FEYODOR."
FOR MY SON TO HAVE SUCH POWER—
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE--
ALL THE MORE REASON TO STRIKE EARLY. YOU KNOW HOW THE GOVERNMENT EMBRACES ITS HEROES. YOU COULD BE THEIR SHINING LIGHT.
AND IF I DO NOT WANT TO SHINE FOR THEM?
YOU WILL DO WHAT I TELL YOU TO DO.
YES? AND HOW WILL YOU ENFORCE THAT?
BRING THE FIST, FATHER. BRING IT NOW AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

THINK YOU ARE SMART, YES? THINK YOU HAVE IT OVER ME, EH? WELL, NOT SO SMART AFTER ALL.
I ALREADY NOTIFIED THE GOVERNMENT.
YOU DID WHAT?
YOU HAVE A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT NEXT WEEK TO CONFIRM YOUR POWER.
I WON'T GO!
NO?
YOU CANNOT BE HURT, BUT SHE CAN.
YOU WILL GO.
AND YOU WILL MAKE US ALL RICH.
ANOTHER ARGUMENT?

COME DOWN FROM THERE BEFORE YOU'RE SEEN.
NOBODY'S GOING TO SEE--
NOW.
WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT YOU SOUND LIKE FATHER--
IT'S JUST...THIS IS IMPORTANT, ANYA.
I WANT YOU TO LEAVE MOSCOW. TOMORROW.
BUT I HAVE CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY--
TOMORROW, ANYA.
HE'S TURNED ME IN TO THE SEARCH OFFICE.
WHAT?
ONCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ITS EYES ON ME THEY WILL BEGIN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU. ONCE THEY FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO THEY WILL NEVER LET GO.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
"I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. I WILL BUY YOU TIME.
"THEN WE MUST RUN, ANYA. WE MUST BOTH RUN."
"YO, FREDDY--"


CHICKENS AIN'T GONNA FRY THEMSELVES, PAL.
SORRY, TED. BE RIGHT THERE.
"YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT, FEYODOR."
ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEND SOME CHICKENS TO HELL, YES?
"WE HAVE A PROBLEM, MR. PRESIDENT."


WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM, DOCTOR?
WELL, SIR, AS YOU KNOW, WE CULTURED SOME OF THE DORMANT CELLS FROM THE VIRUS FOR STUDY AND TO SEE IF AT ANY POINT THEY REACTIVATED, AND—
—THEY'RE UNDERGOING MITOSIS.
UM, HMM.
I SEE.
WHAT'S MITOSIS?
IT'S...WHEN THE CELLS BEGIN TO SPLIT AND DOUBLE... WHEN THE NUMBERS BEGIN TO GROW.
WE CHECKED THE LOG AND THIS BEGAN TO HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME WE ELIMINATED TARGET ALPHA. WE ALSO DETECTED A SMALL, SIMULTANEOUS ENERGY SURGE FROM THE VESSEL THAT BROUGHT IT HERE.
BUT THIS IS SOMETHING WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, SIR, IT'S—
—WELL, THE ONLY WAY I CAN DESCRIBE IT IS QUANTUM MITOSIS.
A PARTICLE IS ONLY A PARTICLE WHILE IT'S BEING OBSERVED; LOOK AWAY AND IT BECOMES A WAVE LOOK BACK, AND IT'S A PARTICLE AGAIN. THIS WORKS THE SAME WAY.
THE SAMPLE ONLY UNDERGOES MITOSIS WHILE IT'S NOT BEING OBSERVED. IF SOMEONE WATCHES IT, THE MITOSIS STOPS. LOOK AWAY, AND IT STARTS AGAIN.
SO HOW ARE YOU DEALING WITH THIS?


"FOR THE MOMENT, BY MAKING SURE IT NEVER GOES UNOBSERVED, EVEN FOR A MINUTE."
CAN I BLINK?
ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY
BUT MY EYES HURT.
WE ARE BORN TO SUFFER.
DO WE KNOW IF THE VIRUS HAS ALSO ACTIVATED IN PEOPLE?
NO, AT LEAST NOT YET, AND THAT'S THE BAFFLING THING, SIR. IT'S LIKE THE VIRUS--
--OR THE VESSEL--
DELIBERATELY REACTIVATED JUST THIS ONE SAMPLE, ALMOST LIKE--
A WARNING SHOT ACROSS OUR BOW.
YES, SIR.
ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR...THANKS FOR THE BRIEFING.
THE VESSEL, AND WHATEVER'S INSIDE THERE, HAS *LOOKED* AT US, MR. PRESIDENT.
IT'S TRYING TO *INTIMIDATE* US. WELL, I'M NOT ABOUT TO BE INTIMIDATED BY A *ROCK* AND SOME MICROSCOPIC CELLS.
STARTING IMMEDIATELY, WE GO WITH PHASE TWO OF THE CAMPAIGN TO GET THIS UNDER CONTROL.
AMP UP THE *PRESSURE* ON THESE PEOPLE AND *KEEP* IT ON, GENERAL. *WE'RE* IN CHARGE OF THIS OPERATION, NOT ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE.
YES, SIR.

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
I GET SHOT BY A SNIPER.
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
INITIATING CALL.
BEGINNING LEVEL
SEVENTEEN ENCRYPTION.
YEAH?
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS VOICE?
I...YEAH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
I WAS.
COOL
WE NEED TO TALK. USUAL PLACE? 21:00 TOMORROW?
YEAH. SEE YOU THERE. GLAD YOU'RE NOT DEAD.
CLICK!
YET.
"SO WE GOT OVER FIFTY *THOUSAND* HITS ON THAT VIDEO, SANDY."

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE NOT ONLY IS THAT GUY GOING TO BE EXPELLED BUT THE POLICE ARE GOING TO FILE CHARGES.
THAT HE ROOFIED LAURA?
NO, THEY COULDN'T PROVE THAT, BUT JUST HAVING THAT STUFF IN HIS ROOM WAS ENOUGH TO—
SANDRA? MS. RAMIREZ?
CAN I SEE YOU FOR A MOMENT?
SURE THING, MS. TERRELL.
THAT LITTLE VIDEO OF YOU HAS CAUSED QUITE A STIR.
WELL, THAT WAS THE IDEA—
AND I'VE HAD A LOT OF CALLS FROM THE REGENTS AND OUR ATTORNEYS.
THE VIDEO SEEMS TO INDICATE YOU CAME THROUGH THE PLAGUE WITH POWERS, SANDY.
DOES IT?
YOU THREW A MAN THIRTY FEET THROUGH A WINDOW.
ADRENALINE IS AN AMAZING THING.
SANDRA, DON'T BE FLIP EVERYONE IN THIS SCHOOL KNOWS YOU HAVE CERTAIN ABILITIES—
LAST I HEARD THAT WASN'T A CRIME.
AT LEAST NOT YET.
NO, BUT AS AN INSTITUTION RECEIVING STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS, WE HAVE CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS. AND YOU HAVE CERTAIN MORAL OBLIGATIONS.

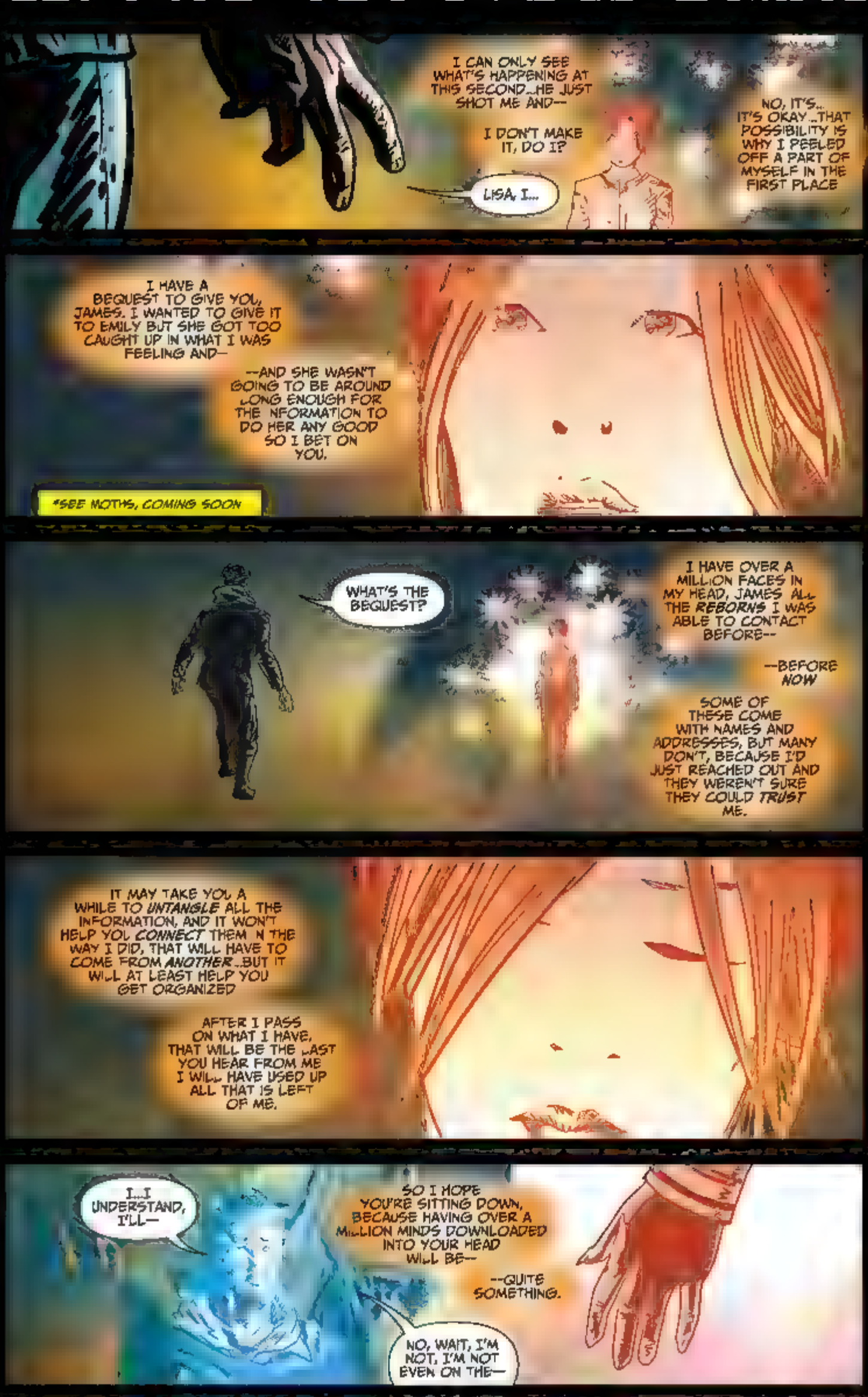
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE CERTAIN CORPORATE OBLIGATIONS. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE.
RECOGNIZE THE NAME?
I THINK ANYONE WOULD. HE'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEYS IN THE COUNTRY. BUT WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH--
HE'S MY UNCLE.
OH.
YOU HAVE THE LAWS ON YOUR SIDE BECAUSE THE SYSTEM IS CORRUPT AND RELIES ON FEAR AND INTIMIDATION.
I DON'T INTIMIDATE, MS. TERRELL. SO THE NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS, CALL MY UNCLE.
BE SURE TO HAVE COUNSEL STANDING BY TO RECEIVE FIRE.
OH, AND I SUGGEST YOU CHANGE CLOTHES AFTER LUNCH, MS. TERRELL.
AS FOR MORAL OBLIGATIONS, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT I CAN STILL SMELL PROFESSOR JOHNSON'S COLOGNE ON YOUR CLOTHES--
--AND I CAN SEE HIS FINGERPRINTS ON THE FRONT OF YOUR BLOUSE.
GIVE HIM AND HIS WIFE MY BEST, MS. TERRELL.
AND NEVER, EVER LECTURE ME AGAIN ABOUT MORALITY.
"WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO EVEN THE SCORE."

BARILLAS, GUATEMALA.
SUPPORT HOW? WHERE? WITH LISA GONE THERE'S NO ONE TO--
NOT WITHOUT SUPPORT, HERNANDO--
REVENGE SOLVES NOTHING.
FOR DECADES THIS COUNTRY WAS RUN OR SABOTAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE CIA AND THE GOVERNMENT DEATH SQUADS. MY UNCLE DIED IN THE CIA'S CIVIL WAR--
I KNOW... AND THERE HAVE BEEN TRIALS--
AND WHO IS GOING TO BRING THESE PEOPLE TO TRIAL, ELISA? THE UNITED STATES? THE UN?
YOU CAN'T EVEN BE SURE IT WAS THE CIA.
YOU KNOW I'M SENSITIVE TO THOUGHTS. I COULD FEEL THE ASSASSIN'S MEMORIES THROUGH HER AS HE DIED I SAW HIM TAKING AN UNMARKED PLANE LEAVING THE US. THEY SENT HIM TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK FOR THEM.
OKAY, SAY YOU'RE RIGHT...WHAT DO WE DO? WHAT CAN WE DO?

PRESIDENT MOLINA DIDN'T JUST TAKE MONEY FROM ORGANIZED CRIME. HE TOOK MONEY FROM THE CIA TO LET THEM CREATE BLACK SITES IN GUATEMALA. SOME ARE STILL HERE.
RUMORS.
MAYBE. BUT WITH YOUR SKILLS WE CAN FIND AT LEAST ONE OF THEM..THEN WE CAN SEND A MESSAGE TO THE MURDERERS.
I DON'T LIKE IT, HERNANDO. I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT—
IF WE WAIT, THEY WILL NOT CONNECT THE DOTS. WE STRIKE NOW AND THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR.
WE COME FOR THEM BEFORE THEY CAN COME FOR US.
ALL RIGHT. I WILL LISTEN TO THE WINDS OF THE INTERNET...SEE WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY AND WHERE THEY MAY LEAD US.
THAT'S ALL I ASK.
NO, HERNANDO...I SUSPECT YOU WILL ASK MUCH MORE OF ME BEFORE THIS IS OVER.
YES.
YES, I WILL.
AND FOR THAT, MY FRIEND, I APOLOGIZE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS WORKS.

I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS WORKS.
I TELL MYSELF IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH LOWERING CELL DENSITY, AND KEYING INTO MAGNETIC AND GRAVITATIONAL FIELDS THE WAY BIRDS MANAGE TO NAVIGATE WHEN THEY MIGRATE, EXCEPT A THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFULLY.
BUT TRUTH IS, I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
BUT EVERY TIME I DO THIS, I DECIDE--
--THAT I REALLY DON'T CARE

I REALLY NEEDED TO FLY TONIGHT. HAVE TO CLEAR MY HEAD OF THE—
...JAMES...
IT FEELS LIKE LISA...BUT IT CAN'T BE—
...I'M HERE...
...OR AT LEAST A PART OF ME...A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE..
...LISA?!
I'M SENDING THIS TO YOU BECAUSE YOU AND THE OTHERS ARE THE ONLY ONES I'M CONNECTED TO AT THIS MOMENT..AND I NEED TO DOWNLOAD WHAT I CAN BEFORE I—


I CAN ONLY SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIS SECOND...HE JUST SHOT ME AND--
I DON'T MAKE IT, DO I?
LISA, I...
NO, IT'S.. IT'S OKAY..THAT POSSIBILITY IS WHY I PEELED OFF A PART OF MYSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE
I HAVE A BEQUEST TO GIVE YOU, JAMES. I WANTED TO GIVE IT TO EMILY BUT SHE GOT TOO CAUGHT UP IN WHAT I WAS FEELING AND--
--AND SHE WASN'T GOING TO BE AROUND LONG ENOUGH FOR THE NFORMATION TO DO HER ANY GOOD SO I BET ON YOU.
*SEE MOTHS, COMING SOON
WHAT'S THE BEQUEST?
I HAVE OVER A MILLION FACES IN MY HEAD, JAMES ALL THE REBORNS I WAS ABLE TO CONTACT BEFORE--
--BEFORE NOW
SOME OF THESE COME WITH NAMES AND ADDRESSES, BUT MANY DON'T, BECAUSE I'D JUST REACHED OUT AND THEY WEREN'T SURE THEY COULD TRUST ME.
IT MAY TAKE YOU A WHILE TO UNTANGLE ALL THE INFORMATION, AND IT WON'T HELP YOU CONNECT THEM N THE WAY I DID, THAT WILL HAVE TO COME FROM ANOTHER..BUT IT WILL AT LEAST HELP YOU GET ORGANIZED
AFTER I PASS ON WHAT I HAVE, THAT WILL BE THE LAST YOU HEAR FROM ME I WILL HAVE USED UP ALL THAT IS LEFT OF ME.
I...I UNDERSTAND, I'LL--
SO I HOPE YOU'RE SITTING DOWN, BECAUSE HAVING OVER A MILLION MINDS DOWNLOADED INTO YOUR HEAD WILL BE--
--QUITE SOMETHING.
NO, WAIT, I'M NOT, I'M NOT EVEN ON THE--

AAGGGHHH!

"WHEN DOES THE CHOPPER ARRIVE?"
ZERO-DARK-THIRTY TOMORROW NIGHT. SLIP IN WHILE THE GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE IS STILL ASLEEP.
DO WE KNOW WHERE THE PRISONER'S FROM?
PAKISTAN. BEYOND THAT, I GOT NOTHING.
CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF THIS HOLE. DO SOMETHING NEW.
YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE ALPHA PROGRAM?
HELL, YEAH... SENT IN THE PAPERWORK LAST NIGHT TIRED OF BOARDING VILLAGERS AND PENNY-ANTE BAD GUYS WHO GIVE UP AT THE FIRST GURGLE.
BUT FIGURING OUT HOW TO INTERROGATE SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BE HURT? NOW THAT'S A CHALLENGE.
TOO BAD YOU WON'T GET TO ENJOY IT.

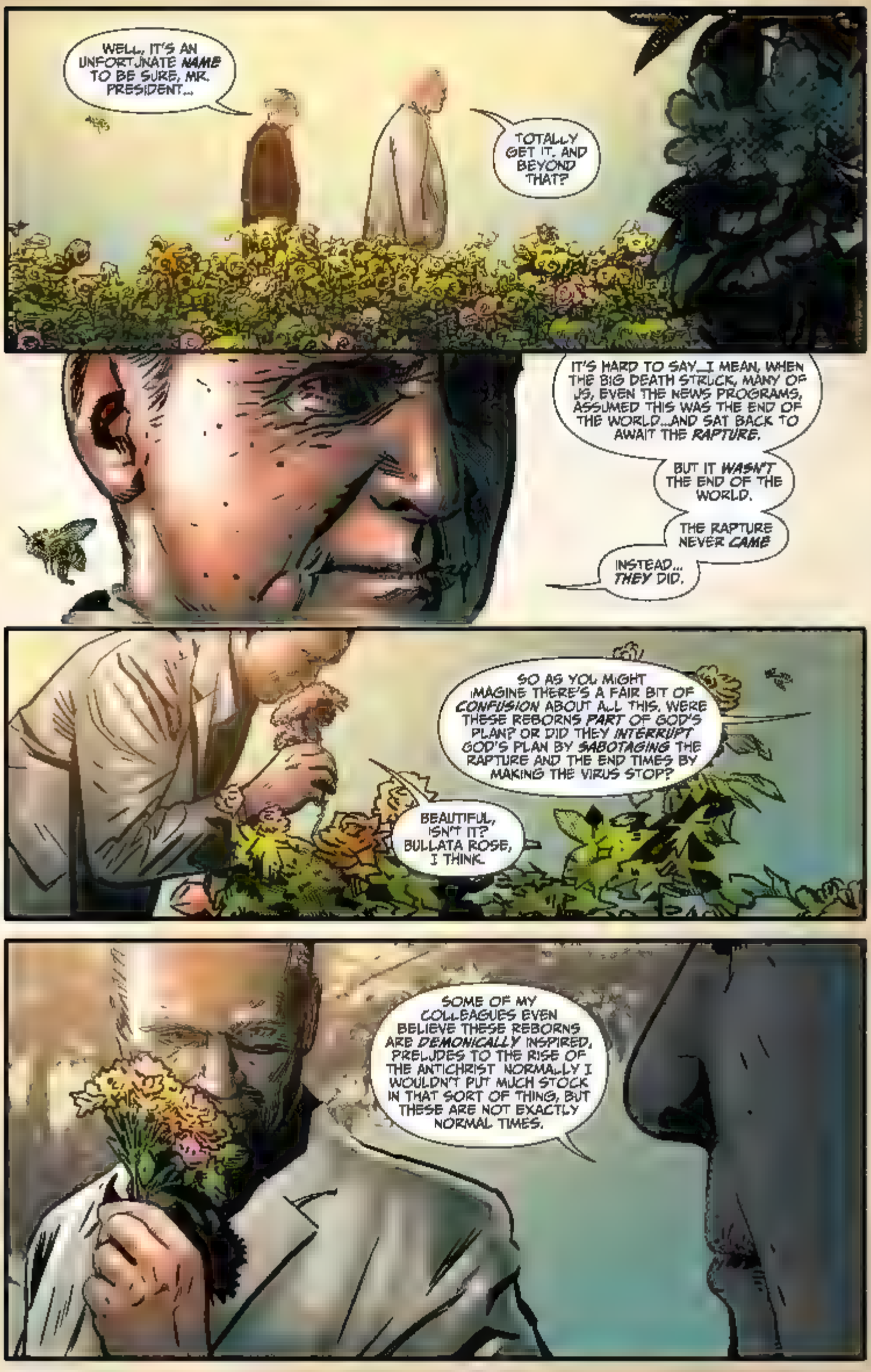
HIT THE LIGHTS!
WHO'S THERE?
FRIENDS OF THE FALLEN--
--WHO NEED YOUR LIVES SO THAT WE CAN SEND A MESSAGE TO YOUR MASTERS.
BRAT TA TA TA TAT BRAT TA TA TA TAT BRAT TA TA TA TAT BRAT TA TA TA TAT

MY TURN.
SHOOOOM!
FRIENDS OF THE FALLEN
"SO CAN YOU HELP US, RALEIGH?"

IT'S NOT A QUICK ANSWER—
I'VE GOT NOWHERE TO GO EXCEPT BACK TO THE SAFE HOUSE. HAVEN'T RISKED GOING OUTSIDE IN WEEKS. SO TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED.
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I HATED MY FATHER. YOU SAW WHAT HE BECAME.
HE MADE SCYTHE INDUSTRIES ONE OF THE BIGGEST PRIVATE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IN THE WORLD, BIGGER THAN BLACKWATER EVER WAS. WORTH *BILLIONS*.
BUT THE DEALS YOU HAVE TO *MAKE*, THE THINGS YOU HAVE TO *DO*, AND THE THINGS YOU *SEE*...IT CAN *CHANGE* A MAN.
AND IT DID. THESE LAST FEW YEARS WE TALKED MAYBE TWICE, AND *NEITHER* OF THEM WAS PLEASANT. AFTER HE DIED DURING THE BIG DEATH AND I INHERITED THE OPERATION, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
NUMBER ONE ON MY LIST WAS TO DISBAND THE WHOLE THING AND DONATE THAT BILLION DOLLARS TO A WORTHY CAUSE. TRY TO CLEAN IT UP A LITTLE, YOU KNOW? THEN YOU SHOW UP.
YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN I KNEW FROM THAT WORLD WHO EVER KEPT HIS PROMISES. WHO NEVER WENT *TOO FAR* INTO THE DARK. OF *COURSE* I'M IN.
TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED.
I WANT TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD
THE PEOPLE I'M WORKING WITH ARE *DIFFERENT*, AND NOT JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE POWERS. I THINK MAYBE COMING THAT *CLOSE* TO *DEATH* CHANGED THEM.
WHERE THEY SEE CORRUPTION, THEY WANT TO TAKE IT DOWN. AND WHEN SOMEONE SUCCEEDS, THEY WANT IT TO BE DONE *ETHICALLY*.
THEY BELIEVE THE WORLD CAN BE MADE INTO A FAIRER, NOBLER AND BETTER PLACE THAN THE ONE YOU AND I HAVE WALKED IN.
AND I ENVY THEM THAT. HONESTLY, IT MAY BE THE *MOST* IMPORTANT POWER ANY OF THEM HAVE.

"BUT THEY'RE STILL FIGURING THEMSELVES *OUT*, AND THAT MAKES THEM VULNERABLE.
"MEANWHILE, EVERY GOVERNMENT AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ON THE *PLANET* IS THROWING EVERY RESOURCE THEY *HAVE* INTO TRYING TO TAKE THEM *DOWN* BEFORE THEY CAN GET ORGANIZED."
BECAUSE THOSE GUYS HAVE ALL THE COOL *TOYS* THEY THINK THEY'RE *INVULNERABLE*, THAT THEY'RE *UNTOUCHABLE*.
SO I WANT TO BRING THE FIGHT TO THEM INSTEAD OF WAITING AROUND FOR THEM TO COME TO US.
FOR THAT I NEED INFORMATION ON WHO'S ON THE *TAKE*, WHO'S BEEN *CORRUPTED*, WHO HAS *SKELETONS* IN THE CLOSET WE CAN EXPLOIT—
YES *ALL* OF THEM.
ARE WE TALKING MILITARY? CIVILIAN? SENATORS? CONGRESSMEN? STATE OFFICIALS? CORPORATE CEOS?
COOL.
A PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, LOOKING FOR CORRUPTION AND ABUSE AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE CORRIDORS OF POWER...I LIKE IT.
YOU JUST SAVED ME FROM A BILLION DOLLAR YARD SALE.
ONE LAST THING.
"APPARENTLY SOME OF YOUR PEOPLE TOOK OUT A BLACK SITE IN GUATEMALA EARLIER TONIGHT IN RETRIBUTION FOR TAKING OUT THE WOMAN WHO WAS HELPING TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES.
"MADE QUITE A MESS.
"THAT'S ALL I KNOW FOR NOW, I'M STILL GETTING MORE DETAILS."

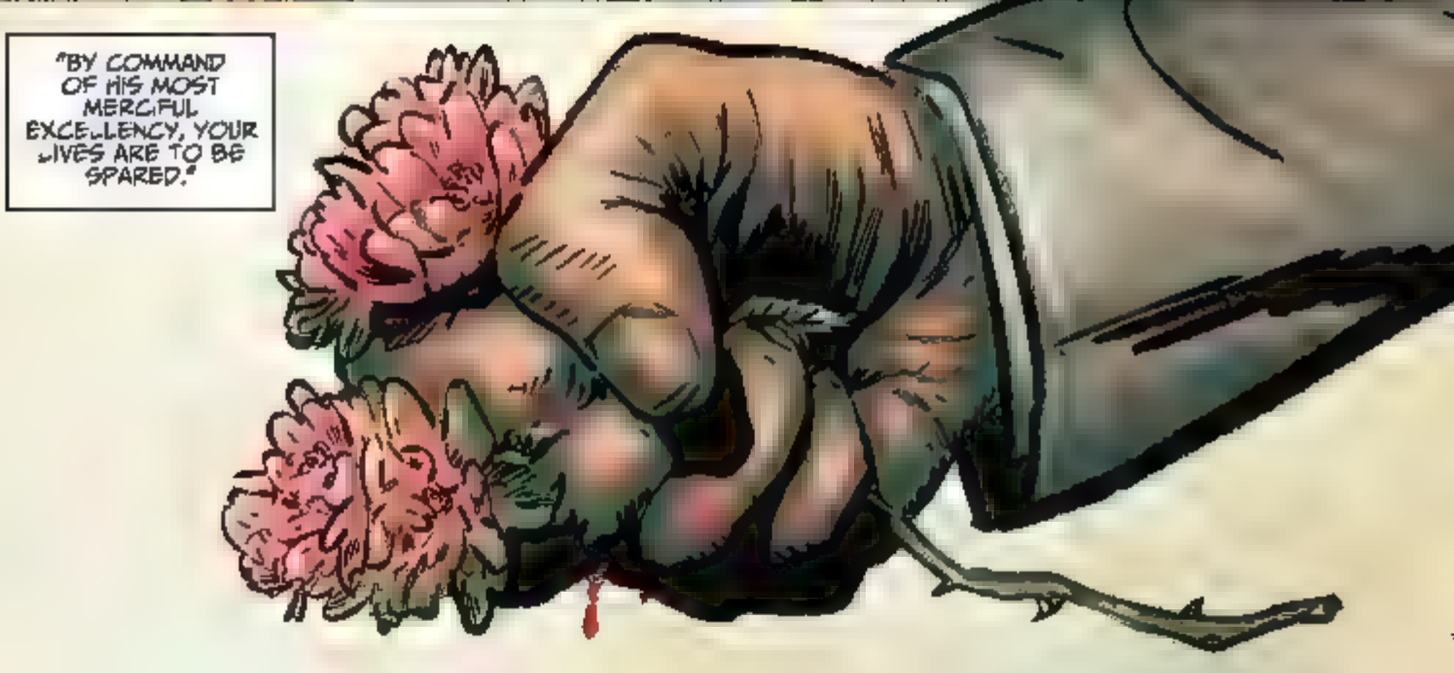
THAT'LL JUST GIVE THE PRESIDENT MORE REASON TO COME AFTER THEM. THEY GAVE HIM EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED.
BUT HE CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT ON TV BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN ADMITTING THE SITE EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO AT LEAST HE CAN'T USE IT PUBLICLY.
BUT YOUR PEOPLE DID ONE THING RIGHT
VIDEO FOOTAGE WAS APPARENTLY SCREWED UP BY SOME KIND OF ENERGY, BUT FROM WHAT'S THERE, THEY USED MASKS, JEFF.
AND MAYBE THE REST OF YOUR PEOPLE, AT LEAST THE ONES WE'LL BE WORKING WITH, SHOULD DO THE SAME. IF THESE GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR NAMES AND ENEMIES, WHY MAKE THEIR JOB EASIER?
IN THE COMIC BOOKS I READ AS A KID, HEROES HAD TO WEAR UNIFORMS AND MASKS TO HIDE THEIR IDENTITY FROM CRIMINALS WHO MIGHT WANT RETRIBUTION.
I DON'T SEE ANY DIFFERENCE WEARING MASKS NOW, IN THE REAL WORLD, TO HIDE THE R IDENTITIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT.
WON'T WORK, RALEIGH.
TWO SECONDS.
MASKS ONLY WORK TWO WAYS. YOU EITHER GO FOR SKI MASKS WHICH MAKES OUR GUYS LOOK LIKE TERRORISTS--
--OR YOU COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF NAME AND COSTUME WHICH JUST PUTS AN EVEN BIGGER TARGET ON YOUR BACK AND MAKES IT THAT MUCH EASIER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND YOU.
RIGHT--
I HAVE TO GO BUT I THINK YOU'RE MISSING AN OPTION. SOMETHING NOBODY'S DONE BEFORE.
IF NOBODY'S DONE IT, HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT IT IS?
DOWNLOAD SPARTACUS, JEFF. YOU'RE A SMART GUY, YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
"SO WHAT DOES THE CHURCH MAKE OF THESE REBORNS, CHAPLAIN?"


WELL, IT'S AN UNFORTUNATE NAME TO BE SURE, MR. PRESIDENT...
TOTALLY GET IT. AND BEYOND THAT?
IT'S HARD TO SAY...I MEAN, WHEN THE BIG DEATH STRUCK, MANY OF US, EVEN THE NEWS PROGRAMS, ASSUMED THIS WAS THE END OF THE WORLD...AND SAT BACK TO AWAIT THE RAPTURE.
BUT IT WASN'T THE END OF THE WORLD.
THE RAPTURE NEVER CAME
INSTEAD... THEY DID.
SO AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE THERE'S A FAIR BIT OF CONFUSION ABOUT ALL THIS. WERE THESE REBORNS PART OF GOD'S PLAN? OR DID THEY INTERRUPT GOD'S PLAN BY SABOTAGING THE RAPTURE AND THE END TIMES BY MAKING THE VIRUS STOP?
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT? BULLATA ROSE, I THINK.
SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES EVEN BELIEVE THESE REBORNS ARE DEMONICALLY INSPIRED, PRELUDES TO THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST. NORMALLY I WOULDN'T PUT MUCH STOCK IN THAT SORT OF THING, BUT THESE ARE NOT EXACTLY NORMAL TIMES.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I SHARE THEIR CONCERNS, AND YOURS, SO IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP—
WELL, WE'RE CONVENING AN INTERFAITH CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE IN GREATER DETAIL...WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO COME BY, HEAR FROM EVERYONE DIRECTLY?
JUST SAY THE WORD AND I'M THERE

SIR...YOU'RE NEEDED IN THE SITUATION ROOM. THERE'S BEEN AN INCIDENT IN GUATEMALA.
IS IT THEM?
ALMOST CERTAINLY.
BE RIGHT THERE.

DUTY CALLS.
OF COURSE. I'LL SEE MYSELF OUT


"BY COMMAND OF HIS MOST MERCIFUL EXCELLENCY, YOUR LIVES ARE TO BE SPARED."

SLAVES YOU WERE, AND SLAVES YOU WILL REMAIN--
"DOWNLOAD SPARTACUS, JEFF. YOU'RE A SMART GUY, YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT."
I'VE SEEN THIS MOVIE A HUNDRED TIMES AND I HAVEN'T GOT A FREAKING CLUE WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.
--BUT THE TERRIBLE PENALTY OF CRUCIFIXION HAS BEEN SET ASIDE--
--ON THE SINGLE CONDITION THAT YOU IDENTIFY THE BODY OR THE LIVING PERSON OF THE SLAVE CALLED--
--SPARTACUS!
SPARTACJS!
I'M--
I'M SPARTACUS!
I'M SPARTACUS!
NO, I'M SPARTACUS!
I'M SPARTACUS!
I'M SPARTACUS, I'M SPARTACUS, I'M--
OHMYGOD--
I'M SPARTACUS! I'M SPARTACUS!
--HE'S RIGHT! THERE'S ANOTHER WAY! A THIRD WAY!
HAH!
HA-HAAA! HAH-HA!
I'M SPARTACUS!
HAH!
WE'RE ALL SPARTACUS!

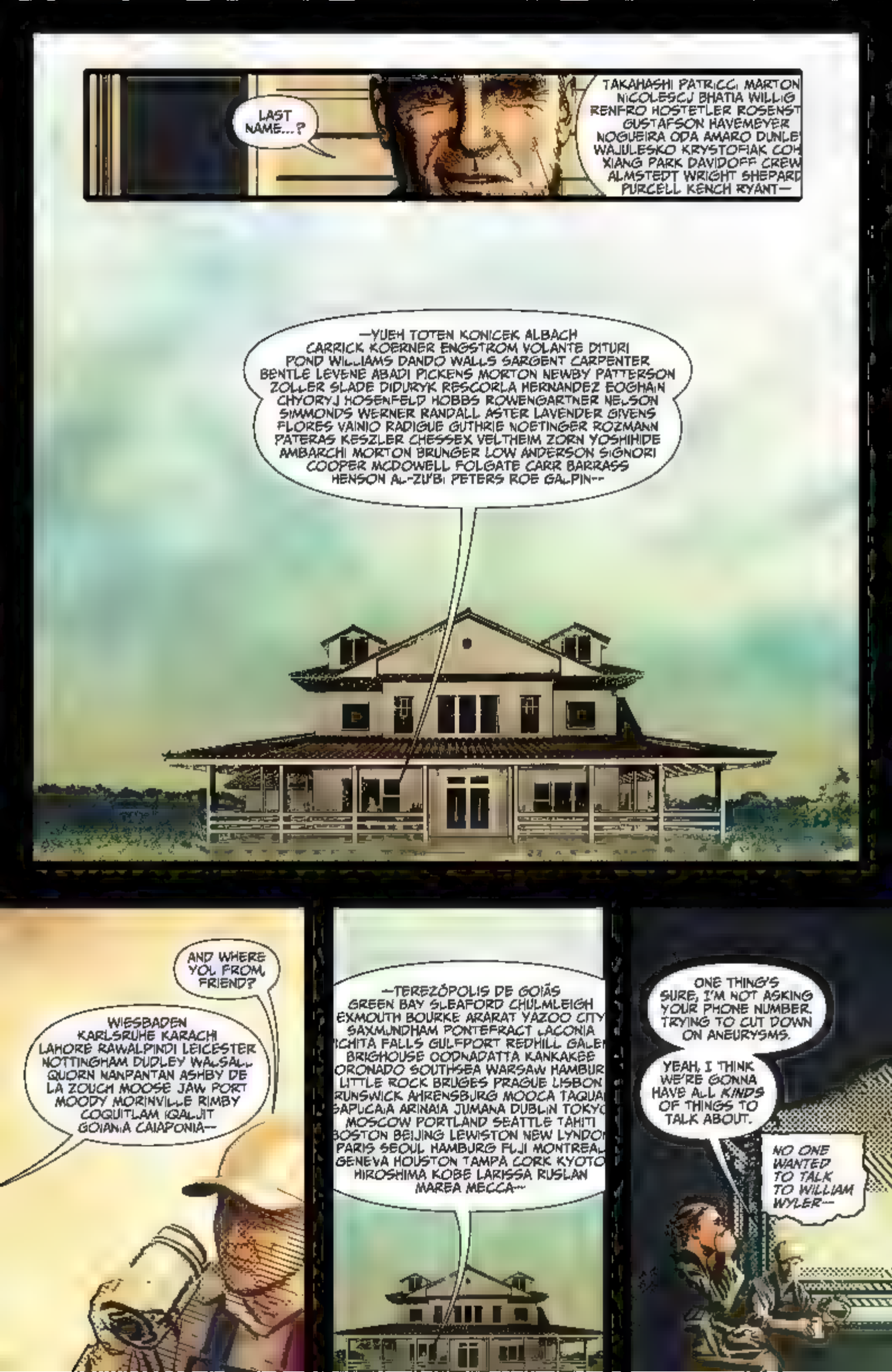
Issue 1 Variant Cover by Mike Deodato Jr.,
Colored by Lee Loughridge

CHHHRRRRR
CHHHRRRR
NOW WHAT THE HELL--

HUH—
—NOT EVEN HURT.
WELP, THERE GOES A DAY'S WORK.

WAS STARTIN' TO WONDER WHEN YOU WERE GONNA WAKE UP
IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN A ROBE, YOU GOT AWFUL MUDDY ON THE LONG PULL BACK FROM THE FIELD I THOUGHT ABOUT CHANGING YOU INTO SOME FRESH DUDS, BUT YOU'RE A BIG GUY AND WE AIN'T BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED.
WHERE AM I?
COLBY, KANSAS.
HOW DID I GET HERE?
WELL, THERE'S A QUESTION TO CONJURE WITH, AIN'T IT?
WHEN I FOUND YOU...LET ME CORRECT THAT, WHEN I FOUND YOU BENT THE NUMBER TWO BLADE ON MY COMBINE...YOU WERE DRESSED CITY, BUT THERE'S NO PLACE AROUND HERE THAT ANYBODY CITY'D WANT TO SEE.
MOST WE GOT IS WHEAT JESUS, ABOUT HALF A MILE DOWN THE ROAD.
WHEAT JESUS?
PAINTING BY SOME LOCAL FOLKS OF JESUS COMING UP OUT OF A WHEAT FIELD THE WAY THAT JAWS MOVIE SHOWED A SHARK COMIN' UP OUTTA THE WATER. I DON'T GET IT, BUT IT MAKES 'EM HAPPY.
SOME FOLKS DRIVE CLEAR CROSS COUNTRY TO SEE IT BUT I'M GUESSING YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM.
TRY THE LEMONADE, I THINK YOU COULD USE IT.

SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
TEX. I OWN THIS PLACE.
TEX.
YEP.
BUT YOU LIVE IN KANSAS.
TOOK IT ON WHEN I WAS A KID, AFTER I SAW WIZARD OF OZ EVERY MORNING WHEN I WOKE UP I'D TAKE A MINUTE AND KEEP MY EYES CLOSED AND SAY, "I'M NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE." THEN I'D OPEN 'EM--
--AND CRAP, I'M STILL IN KANSAS. BUT ONE DAY, YOU NEVER KNOW.
I'M GUESSING YOU FELL OUTTA THE SKY. WAY YOU CRATERED INTO THE GROUND, YOUR CLOTHES, NO FOOTPRINTS COMIN' OR GOIN'...PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE POWERS THE NEWS SHOWS KEEP YELLIN' ABOUT, ALL DANGEROUS AND STUFF.
I GO BY WHAT I SEE, AND SO FAR YOU AIN'T DANGEROUS.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY ID, JUST CASH AND A BUSTED-UP CELL PHONE...SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'M...I'M NOT SURE, IT'S HARD TO... I MEAN, I KNOW I WAS FLYING, THAT I WAS GOING SOMEWHERE, THEN SUDDENLY--
--NO, WAIT, IT'S COMING BACK, IT'S--
--ANGELA SHELBY BENEDITA JUAO NEYDE FREDERICK LASZLO ALPHONSE HELENE KHAWLAH THEODORE ANTONIO MASAHIRO SURI CECIL JAMES JAKE BRIAN TIMOTHY MILLS MANI RAIN AROHA JACINDA BEN COCO ROBERT AIMEE MUNE GRANT REINA SCOTT REBECCA TAMI CELESTE ASHLEY MATTHEW TAMARA JULIA WALTER SANDRA SONI NAIR NEYDE MAURO CAMILA LUIGI ALISTAIR CORNELIA CHRIS WALDON REGINALD REGINA JUBAL JOSEPHINE HENRI EMIL ALMANZO CAROLINE OSCAR MARIE RUHIE KELSEY ADRIAN ERIN SARA LINDA PIPER JONES ANGELO TABIR NAHEEN DAVINDER PAVINDER ALLONSO ALPHONSE LUKAS TOBY TOBIN TERRY GREGOR ALEXANDER IBIN PITT ASHTON FRANCIS FERGUSON PETER JOHN MICHAEL FRANCOIS LYNDON STEVE SEAN MICK MAURICE KEN YUTO BRUCE BRIAN ERIC LEONARD SAM ANDREAS KEVIN IAN JERRY GEOFF ALEXANDER ANTHONY ZACHARY YURI WILLIAM XANDER VICTOR JLYSSES THOMAS ALICE SARAH MARCUS CECILIA AKIKO ARIA SUSAN AKIHITO, SAWYER MIRANDA CAMERON SALLY XIANGXIANG FREDDY CICI KERR MIA BELLE FRANCESCA FERNANDO RONNY BARRY OLIVER CLARK JASON RAVI MOHAMMAD CATHERINE MATSURI KAI--


LAST NAME...?
TAKAHASHI PATRICCI MARTON NICOLESCU BHATIA WILLIG RENFRO HOSTETLER ROSENST GUSTAFSON HAVEMEYER NOGUEIRA ODA AMARO DUNLE WAJULESKO KRYSTOFIAK COH XIANG PARK DAVIDOFF CREW ALMSTEDT WRIGHT SHEPARD PURCELL KENCH RYANT—
—YUEH TOTEN KONICEK ALBACH CARRICK KOERNER ENGSTROM VOLANTE DITURI POND WILLIAMS DANDO WALLS SARGENT CARPENTER BENTLE LEVENE ABADI PICKENS MORTON NEWBY PATTERSON ZOLLER SLADE DIDURYK RESCORLA HERNANDEZ EOGHAIN CHYORYJ HOSENFELD HOBBS ROWENGARTNER NELSON SIMMONDS WERNER RANDALL ASTER LAVENDER GIVENS FLORES VAINIO RADIGUE GUTHRIE NOETINGER ROZMANN PATERAS KESZLER CHESSEX VELTHEIM ZORN YOSHIHIDE AMBARCHI MORTON BRUNGER LOW ANDERSON SIGNORI COOPER MCDOWELL FOLGATE CARR BARRASS HENSON AL-ZU'BI PETERS ROE GALPIN--
AND WHERE YOU FROM, FRIEND?
WIESBADEN KARLSRUHE KARACHI LAHORE RAWALPINDI LEICESTER NOTTINGHAM DUDLEY WALSALL QUORN NANPANTAN ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH MOOSE JAW PORT MOODY MORINVILLE RIMBY COQUITLAM IQALUIT GOIANIA CAIAPONIA—
—TEREZÓPOLIS DE GOIÁS GREEN BAY SLEAFORD CHULMLEIGH EXMOUTH BOURKE ARARAT YAZOO CITY SAXMUNDHAM PONTEFRACT LAGONIA ICHITA FALLS GULFPORT REDHILL GALE BRIGHOUSE OODNADATTA KANKAKEE ORONADO SOUTHSEA WARSAW HAMBUR LITTLE ROCK BRUGES PRAGUE LISBON RUNSWICK AHRENSBURG MOOCA TAQUA SAPUCAIA ARINAIA JUMANA DUBLIN TOKYO MOSCOW PORTLAND SEATTLE TAHITI BOSTON BEIJING LEWISTON NEW LYNDO PARIS SEOUL HAMBURG FUJI MONTREAL GENEVA HOUSTON TAMPA CORK KYOTO HIROSHIMA KOBE LARISSA RUSLAN MAREA MECCA—
ONE THING'S SURE, I'M NOT ASKING YOUR PHONE NUMBER. TRYING TO CUT DOWN ON ANEURYSMS.
YEAH, I THINK WE'RE GONNA HAVE ALL KINDS OF THINGS TO TALK ABOUT.
NO ONE WANTED TO TALK TO WILLIAM WYLER—

INCOMING!
—OR SIT NEXT TO HIM AT LUNCH. BECAUSE EVEN AT 18, IN HIS SENIOR YEAR, HE WAS STILL THE SAME LOSER HE'D BEEN WHEN HE WAS 12
YO, WEIRD WILLY...BETTER EAT FAST BEFORE YOUR PIMPLES BUST AND GET FACE JUICE ALL OVER YOUR FOOD!
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. ONE YEAR AGO.
THE HALLWAYS AND CLASSROOMS WERE NO SAFER.
WHOOPS!
WHOA! HAVE A NICE TRIP!
HAH! WILLY DOESN'T HAVE A WILLY!
BETTER LOOK OUT WALKING HOME, WEIRDO.
CORSO HIGH WAS WHERE ALL THE RICH KIDS WENT IN A RICH TOWN IN A RICH COUNTY. WILLY WAS ONLY ABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF THE SCHOOL POLICY ALLOWING THE CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES TO TAKE CLASSES FOR FREE.
EVEN THE JANITOR.
WHEN THE VIRUS HIT TWO MONTHS BEFORE GRADUATION, ALL THE RICH FAMILIES GOT THEIR RICH KIDS OUT OF TOWN TO EMERGENCY SANCTUARIES TO WAIT OUT THE BIG DEATH.

BUT UNLIKE CORSO HIGH, THE SANCTUARY'S ADMISSION POLICY DID NOT INCLUDE JANITORS.
OR THEIR KIDS.
SO WHEN HE COULD NOT GET UP, HE CLOSED HIS EYES FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED WOULD BE THE VERY LAST TIME.
HE WAS WRONG.
WHEN HE WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE AND INTO THE NIGHT, HE FELT BETTER THAN HE HAD EVER FELT IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE.
THAT WAS NOT THE ONLY THING HE DISCOVERED THAT EVENING.

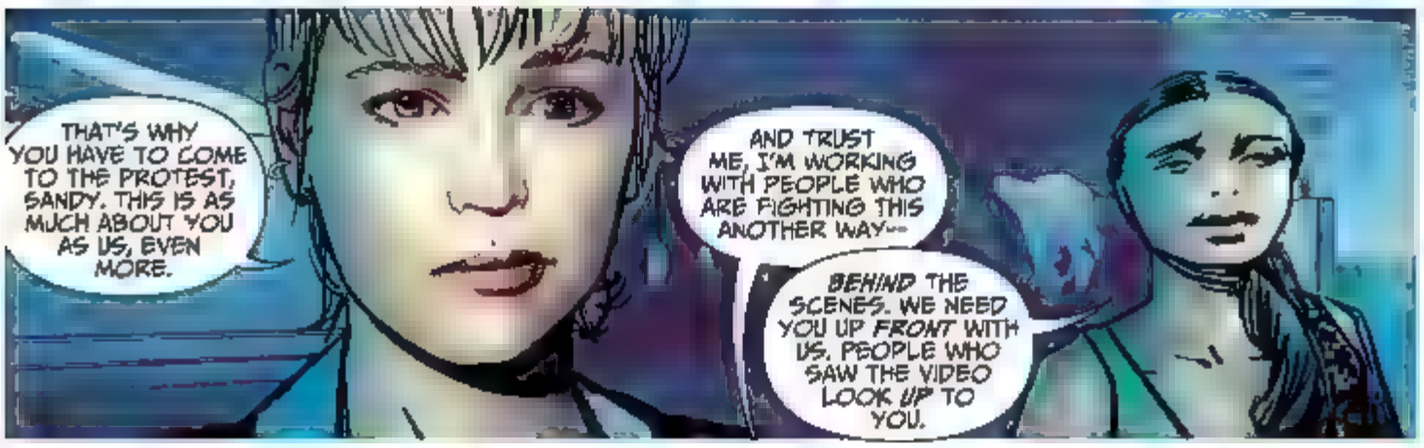
WHEN THE BIG DEATH STOPPED, THE SCHOOL ARRANGED FOR A COMBINATION PROM NIGHT AND YOU'RE OFF TO COLLEGE NOW PARTY. IT WAS THE BIGGEST EVENT THE TOWN HAD EVER SEEN.
AND THEY HAD SEEN SOME DOOZIES.
EVERYONE WHO WAS ANYONE WAS INVITED.
AND ANYONE WHO WAS NOBODY WAS NOT. BUT WILLY GOT IN ANYWAY. IF ANYONE HAD NOTICED HIM—
—IF ANYONE HAD NOTICED HIM, EVER—
—THEY MIGHT HAVE ASKED, WHY ARE YOU SMILING, WEIRD WILLY?
AND HE WOULD HAVE TOLD THEM, BECAUSE WHILE YOU WERE SAFE IN YOUR SANCTUARY, THE DEATH PASSED YOU BY.
BUT SO DID THE POWER.
OUR POWER.
MY POWER.

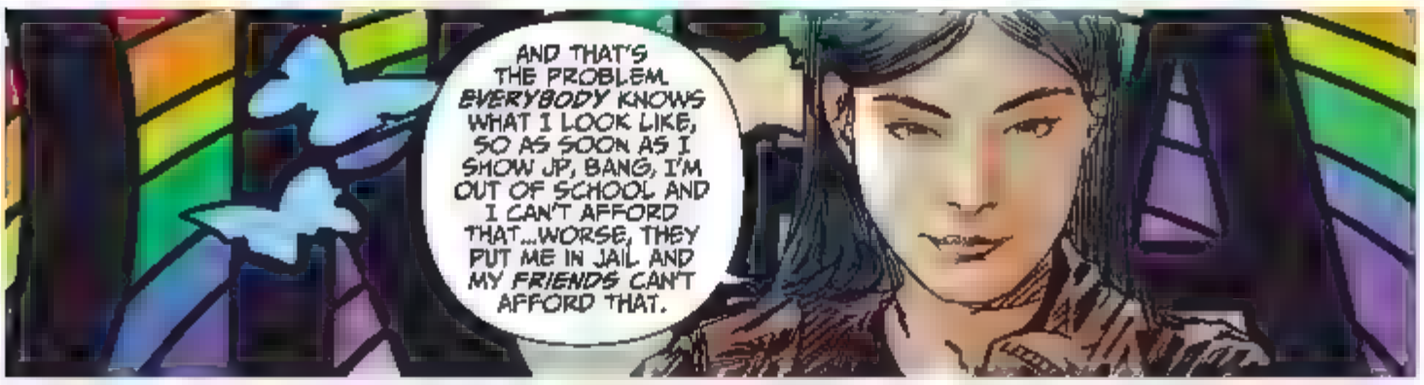
THE POLICE STOPPED THE PRESS FROM REPORTING WHAT THE FIRST RESPONDERS FOUND WHEN THEY SAWED THROUGH THE DOORS.
LIMBS IN ONE PILE TORSOS IN ANOTHER. HEADS IN A THIRD. ALL OF THEM.
ALL OF THEM.
WHY KILL ALL OF THEM, WILLIAM?
NEW YORK. TWO WEEKS AGO.
SURELY SOME OF THEM DIDN'T DESERVE THAT. SOME OF THEM HAD TO BE INNOCENT
IT WAS DARK.
I THOUGHT YOU COULD SEE IN THE DARK.
YES—
—I SAW EVERYTHING.
SO ARE YOU GOING TO TRY TO ARREST ME?
YOU SOUND AS IF YOU'D LIKE THAT.
OH, I WOULD.
WELL, I'D LIKE YOU TO TRY
I'D LIKE THAT VERY, VERY MUCH.
SINCE THAT NIGHT YOU'VE BEEN ON THE RUN, DOING THINGS THAT, WELL, DON'T BEAR DESCRIBING.
TOO BAD. IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO HEAR A PROFESSIONAL'S OPINION OF YOUR WORK.
YOU'VE HAD TO KEEP MOVING BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T BE HURT, YOU CAN BE—
DISTRACTED?
AS GOOD A WORD AS ANY.

NOW, WE CAN KEEP DOING THIS DANCE UNTIL SOONER OR LATER WE FIGURE OUT HOW TO HURT YOU OR IMPRISON YOU OR MAYBE EVEN KILL YOU--
YEAH, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
--OR YOU COULD COME TO WORK FOR ME, AND WITH JS.
AND WHO'S US?
PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
I'VE READ UP ON ALL THE OTHERS. THERE'S NO ONE LIKE ME.
CLOSE ENOUGH, THEN.
POWER'S A FUNNY THING, WILLIAM. IT TAKES TIME TO GET IT, TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT, AND IF YOU MAKE ONE MISTAKE TOO MANY, NO TIME AT ALL TO LOSE IT.
THERE'S SOMETHING LIKE TEN OR TWENTY MILLION PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO GOT POWERS OVERNIGHT.
THEY DIDN'T EARN THOSE POWERS, BARELY UNDERSTAND 'EM, AND THEY SURE AS HELL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM.
AND YOU WANT TO CONTROL THEM.
WE WANT TO HELP THEM.
RIGHT, OF COURSE.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW IF YOU DON'T, THEN THAT PART ABOUT LOSING POWER, WELL, THAT'S YOU AND EVERYBODY ABOVE YOU.
SO IF YOU WANT PEOPLE LIKE ME TO FIGHT PEOPLE LIKE ME TO PROTECT PEOPLE LIKE YOU—
--LET ME HEAR WHAT YOU'RE OFFERING.
"WE HAVE TO FIGHT THIS, SANDY."

I'M NOT DISAGREEING, DIANE, THE QUESTION IS RESIST *WHAT* AND *HOW* THE DEAN'S LOOKING FOR ANY REASON TO KICK ME OUT--
THEY'VE STARTED SETTING UP NEW *CHECKPOINTS* AT STREETS AND ADDED *SECURITY* AT AIRPORTS.
"THEY'RE USING THE EXCUSE THAT THE VIRUS MIGHT COME BACK FOR A *SECOND WAVE* TO JUSTIFY TAKING BLOOD SAMPLES FROM PEOPLE.
"AND THAT MIGHT BE OKAY IF IT WAS TRUE BUT THE TESTS THEY'RE USING AREN'T CHECKING THE *VIRUS*, THEY'RE CHECKING FOR THE *ANTIBODY*--
"--BECAUSE ONLY THE *SURVIVORS* HAVE THE ANTIBODY, AND THE ONLY PEOPLE WITH *POWERS* ARE *SURVIVORS*.
"THEY'RE CREATING A DATABASE OF PEOPLE TO CHECK UP ON.
"OR WORSE."

TAKING BLOOD SAMPLES AGAINST YOUR WILL, UNDER FALSE PRETENSES, IS WARRANTLESS SEARCH AND SEIZURE.
SINCE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO SURVIVED ARE AROUND COLLEGE AGE, WE'RE THE ONES BEING TARGETED. THEY WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE AFRAID OF ANYONE WHO LOOKS LIKE US.

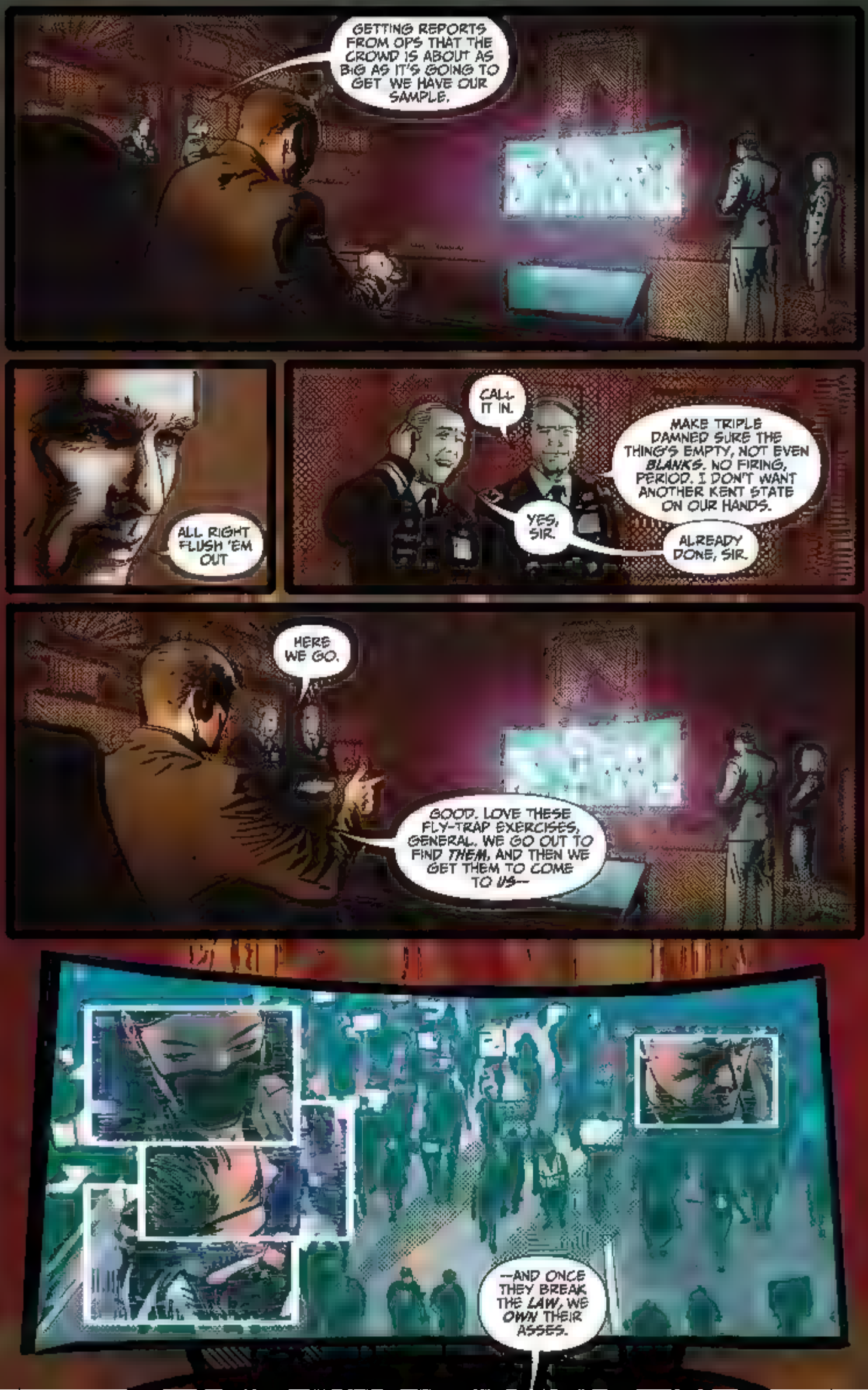

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO COME TO THE PROTEST, SANDY. THIS IS AS MUCH ABOUT YOU AS US, EVEN MORE.
AND TRUST ME, I'M WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE FIGHTING THIS ANOTHER WAY--
BEHIND THE SCENES. WE NEED YOU UP FRONT WITH US. PEOPLE WHO SAW THE VIDEO LOOK UP TO YOU.


AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM. EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT I LOOK LIKE, SO AS SOON AS I SHOW UP, BANG, I'M OUT OF SCHOOL AND I CAN'T AFFORD THAT...WORSE, THEY PUT ME IN JAIL AND MY FRIENDS CAN'T AFFORD THAT.

WE JUST NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE THERE IN CASE THINGS GET BAD OR IF SOMEBODY ON THE OTHER SIDE MAKES IT LOOK BAD ON PURPOSE.
THOUGH OF COURSE THAT NEVER HAPPENS TO PEACEFUL PROTESTS, RIGHT?
WE DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHICH PERSON IN THE CROWD YOU ARE, JUST THAT YOU'RE THERE TO HELP KEEP US SAFE.
SO JUST DO WHAT WE'RE DOING.

AND SERIOUSLY, SANDY...AREN'T HEROES SUPPOSED TO WEAR MASKS?
"YOU ARE ORDERED TO DISPERSE AT ONCE!"

REPEAT, YOU ARE ORDERED TO DISPERSE!
NO SPIES! NO BLOOD! GET OUT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
ON IT
SURVEILLANCE CAM.
STOP STOP
OUT OF MY VEINS
LANE is LAME
STOP POLICE BRUTALITY
Wrong Lane
HEY-HEY! HO-HO! PRESIDENT LANE HAS GOT TO GO!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY VEINS!
"THEY'RE SO PREDICTABLE."


GETTING REPORTS FROM OPS THAT THE CROWD IS ABOUT AS BIG AS IT'S GOING TO GET. WE HAVE OUR SAMPLE.
ALL RIGHT. FLUSH 'EM OUT.
CALL IT IN.
MAKE TRIPLE DAMNED SURE THE THING'S EMPTY, NOT EVEN *BLANKS*. NO FIRING, PERIOD. I DON'T WANT ANOTHER KENT STATE ON OUR HANDS.
YES, SIR.
ALREADY DONE, SIR.
HERE WE GO.
GOOD. LOVE THESE FLY-TRAP EXERCISES, GENERAL. WE GO OUT TO FIND *THEM*, AND THEN WE GET THEM TO COME TO *US*—
—AND ONCE THEY BREAK THE *LAW*, WE *OWN* THEIR ASSES.

SANDY!
I Can't BREATHE
OHMYGOD THEY'RE GONNA FIRE!

DON'T--
BUT FEYODOR, THEY'RE--
NO, THEY'RE NOT... I OVERHEARD THEIR TRANSMISSIONS...THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO DRAW OUT YOU AND ANY OF THE OTHERS LIKE US.
NOW I HAVE TO STOP THE REST!
WHY AREN'T YOU--
IT'S A TRICK. A TRAP.
"STILL NOTHING FROM JAMES?"

NO.
I CAN COUNT, FEYODOR.
IT'S BEEN A WEEK.
WHAT IF THEY'VE CAUGHT HIM?
MY CONTACT WOULD KNOW.
YOU'RE PUTTING A LOT OF FAITH IN THIS CONTACT OF YOURS.
LAST I HEAR, THAT'S WHAT FAITH IS FOR.
GOT IT, THANKS.
SO MEANWHILE WE SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING?
YOU'RE USING THE PRESENT TENSE YOU WERE AND YOU DID BUT YOU'RE NOT ANYMORE.
THIS WILL CHANGE THE SITUATION IN WAYS YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE.
IS THERE CAKE?
MAYBE LATER.
FOR YOU.

THE SPARTANS.
HASBURG, IF WE PUT THESE ON, THE POLICE WON'T *NEED* FLY TRAPS, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FIND US IN A CROWD IN *SECONDS*.
YOU'VE PUT A TARGET ON OUR BACKS.
NOT EXACTLY.
YOU SEE, MY *CONTACT* USED BACKDOOR IPs AND DEAD-END ROUTERS TO SEND THE SPECS FOR THOSE MASKS TO EVERYONE IN THE STATE.
IN TIME, WE'LL DO THIS FOR THE *OTHERS* LIKE YOU AS WELL, BUT YOU'RE THE *FIRST*. HENCE, *SPARTANS*.
"RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE BEING DOWNLOADED.
"RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE BEING 3D PRINTED."

I'M SURPRISED THEY'D TRY AGAIN SO QUICKLY--
WELL, IN REGARD TO THAT, MR. PRESIDENT THERE'S--
--WELL, THERE'S BEEN A SITUATION.
WHAT KIND OF SITUATION?
WELL, IT'S--
WE'RE ON, SIR.
BEST YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF.
WHAT THE HELL...?
WELL, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.
"I AM SPARTACUS!"
"WE ARE THE SPARTANS!"

SPARTANS
MY VEINS MY RIGHTS
ALL GENES MATTER!
ARE PEOPLE WHEN TEXAS EXECUTES ONE!
WE ARE THE SPARTANS!
MY ARMS ARE TIRED FROM HOLDING THIS SIGN SINCE THE 1960s
WE ARE all HUMAN
THE BORROWER IS THE SLAVE OF THE LENDER HOW DO YOUR CHAINS FEEL AMERICA?
OUT OF MY VEINS
WE ARE THE SPARTANS!
SPARTANS
MY BODY MY
STOP PRETENDING YOUR RACISM IS PATRIOTISM
DON'T DO IT AGAIN, OK?
WE ARE ALL THE SPARTANS!
MY MUSTACHE
END POLICE BRUTALITY
HAS TEETH
I WAS TOLD THERE WOULD BE CAKE

--AS VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND PROTESTERS CONTINUED FOR A THIRD DAY IN DETROIT OVER THE CITY'S DECISION TO INSTALL DNA CHECKPOINTS SIMILAR TO THOSE ALREADY BEING USED AT AIRPORTS AND TRAIN STATIONS.
HOW ARE THESE PEOPLE GETTING THEIR HANDS ON THE COSTUMES?
BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS THOSE THINGS.
CRAP.
THE ARMORED PARTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND 3D PRINTED
YES, SIR. THE REST ARE COSPLAYERS, THOSE PEOPLE CAN MAKE ANYTHING.
THE SITES ARE ALLEGEDLY CHECKING FOR A RESURGENCE OF THE XVINT VIRUS BUT WHICH OTHERS CLAIM ARE MEANT TO IDENTIFY AND ARREST SURVIVORS WITH POWERS.
CAN'T WE MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO WEAR MASKS IN PUBLIC, LESTER? JUST ARREST THEM?
THE NATIONAL GUIDANCE WE SENT WARNING ABOUT A RETURN OF THE VIRUS INCLUDED ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO WEAR MASKS.
IF WE TRY TO RESCIND THAT WE'LL HAVE THE ACLU ON OUR ASS DEMANDING TO SEE OUR HOMEWORK ON THE SWITCH, AND WE'RE NOT READY TO PRODUCE THAT. YET.
CRAP.
TURN IT OFF
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE'S NOTHING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CAN DO ABOUT THIS?
MR. PRESIDENT--
WE'VE GOT MOBS IN MASKS IN THE STREETS.
--WE HAVE TO DO THIS SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY WE'RE IN THIS FOR THE LONG GAME.

MAYBE YOU'RE IN IT FOR THE LONG TERM BUT I'M JUST TWO YEARS FROM RUNNING FOR REELECTION.
HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH PUTTING OUR OWN TEAM TOGETHER, MARQUES?
I HAVE FIVE I FEEL I CAN RELY ON, AND TWO THAT I'M STILL CHECKING OUT.
"ONE IN PARTICULAR MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL REBORN WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED, THOUGH YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT TO LOOK AT HIM.
"WHAT I DON'T KNOW IS IF HE IS SOMEONE WHO WE CAN RELY ON TO FOLLOW ORDERS OR INSTRUCTIONS.
"SO I'VE ARRANGED FOR AN EXERCISE TO TEST BOTH HIS CLAIMS TO POWER AND WHETHER OR NOT HE IS AS MALLEABLE AS WE REQUIRE."
SO WHERE ARE WE GOING?
COOL.
GUATEMALA, SIR.
WELL, AT LEAST SOMEONE HERE IS SHOWING PROGRESS—
MR. PRESIDENT, THAT'S NOT REALLY—
BECAUSE IT SEEMS I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE ROOM TO HAVE FIGURED OUT A LEGAL WAY TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING AND ENLISTING THESE REBORNS TO OUR OWN PURPOSES.
THERE ARE TREASON AND SEDITION LAWS AGAINST CITIZENS WORKING FOR FOREIGN POWERS AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, RIGHT?
YES, BUT—
GIVEN WHERE THE VIRUS THAT STARTED ALL THIS CAME FROM, HOW IS THAT NOT ABOUT AS FOREIGN A POWER AS YOU CAN GET?
WE HAVE THE GUN, GENTLEMEN. AND THE BULLETS.

"WE JUST NEED THE WILL TO PULL THE TRIGGER."
HEY...MISTER LOTTANAMES... YOU BETTER GET OUT HERE.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
NEVER SEE THAT MANY FANCY BLACK CARS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, SON. SO IT'S EITHER TROUBLE OR SOMEBODY WANTS TO SHOOT ANOTHER CAR COMMERCIAL HERE.
DOES THAT HAPPEN A LOT?
HUMOR IS SO SUBJECTIVE.
SLAM
YOU JAMES STRUCK?
I—
DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE JAMES PART, BUT HE SURE ENOUGH GOT STRUCK BY SOMETHING
YOU SURE THIS IS HIM?
MATCHES THE PHOTO.
CAN I SEE THAT?
LOOKS RIGHT TO ME. AND I THINK JAMES WAS ONE OF THE NAMES YOU SAID DURING THAT ALL-NIGHT NAME-GASM YOU HAD.
HOW DID YOU FIND ME? AND WHO ARE YOU?

WE STARTED MONITORING WEB SEARCHES. CAME ACROSS SOME UNUSUAL ENTRIES COMING FROM THIS IP. MAN FALLING OUT OF SKY. MISSING MAN WITH POWERS. BEST SITE FOR OPPAI.
OPPAI?
DID YOU NOTICE I LIVE ALONE?
I'VE COME TO BRING YOU BACK. THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN CRAZY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
THE OTHERS...HAS... HASBURG?
GOOD FIRST STEP
BEST NEXT STEP WOULD BE INTO THE CAR WHILE I HAVE A CHAT WITH TEX.
THIS NEVER HAPPENED.
NO, IT DIDN'T.
YES, IT DID.
YES, IT DID.
TWENTY GRAND?
DONE.
TAKE CARE, SON! STAY OUTTA TROUBLE!
WHAT'S OPPAI?
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.

DING-DING
WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR?
GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH WITH A SIDE OF COLESLAW. FRIES.
ANYTHING ELSE?
YEAH. SEVEN CUPS OF COFFEE—
—AND BLOCK PARTY

DING-DING
Ethan Williams.
Aiden Williams.
Noah Davis.
Mia Coleman.
Jamal Lee.
Hayesha Turner.
BLOCK PARTY
IF YOU'RE SELLING, WE DON'T WANT IT. IF YOU'RE BUYING, GO SOMEWHERE ELSE. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT--
--YOU'RE AN IDIOT.

ALL I WANT IS FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME. IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, I'LL GO. I EVEN MADE SURE THEY KEPT YOUR COFFEE WARM.
NO POINT IN TALKING. WE ALREADY *TOLD* THE OTHER GUY WE'RE NOT INTERESTED
I'M *NOT* THE OTHER GUY'S OTHER GUY
I TAKE IT YOU'VE SEEN WHAT'S GOING ON ALL OVER THE COUNTRY? PRESIDENT LANE USING MILITARIZED POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO PROVOKE PROTESTERS TO FIND OUT WHO HAS POWERS? ALSO SURVEILLANCE DRONES AND CHECKPOINTS TO PICK UP ANY STRAYS?
I THINK THE TERM YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS AUTHORITARIAN BULLCRAP.
BESIDES, WE'RE NOT HIDING. EVERYBODY *KNOWS* WHO WE ARE. SOMEBODY WANTS TO COME AND MAKE A THING OF IT, FINE, BRING IT, SEE HOW THAT WORKS OUT FOR YOU.
YOU SEEM TO THINK I'M ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SIDE IN ALL THIS.
GOVERNMENT SUIT. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE. YOU GOT GOVERNMENT WRITTEN ALL OVER YOU. PROBABLY EVEN GOT IT EMBROIDERED ON YOUR TIGHTY WHITIES, MR. TIGHTY WHITEY
AND THERE WAS A TIME, MS. TURNER, WHEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN RIGHT. BUT NOT ANYMORE. NOW I'M ON THE OTHER SIDE, TRYING TO HELP PUT A *STOP* TO THIS MADNESS.
MS. COLEMAN, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN RECALL EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER SEEN SINCE YOU WERE FIVE, IS THAT TRUE?
FOUR, BUT YEAH, SO?
YOU WATCH THE NEWS?
WHEN I WANT TO GET DEPRESSED, SURE.
MY NAME IS JEFF HASBURG. I USED TO RUN THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. ROLL BACK TO LOOK FOR MY FACE, AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.
AND THEN YOU'LL GO?
IF YOU WANT.
OKAY, THEN.

CAN WE—
TAKES THE TIME IT TAKES, OKAY?
YEAH, YOU TRY REMEMBERING EVERYTHING YOU EVER SAW OR HEARD
—GOT IT.
PRESIDENT SAID YOU WERE KIDNAPPED BY TERRORISTS.
SHORTHAND FOR ANYONE WHO OPPOSES HIS OBJECTIVES.
THEY SAID YOU WERE DEAD.
NO ONE'S PERFECT. LET'S TAKE A WALK.

LOOK, I'VE DONE MY HOMEWORK, I KNOW YOU WANT TO STAY *LOCAL*, LOOK AFTER THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILIES, KEEP THEM SAFE FROM THE FASCISTS AND THE RACISTS AND THE ASSHOLES, BUT--
I DON'T THINK ASSHOLES NEEDS TO BE A SEPARATE CATEGORY.
RACIST ASSHOLES, FASCIST ASSHOLES--
EXCEPT THEN T'S REDUNDANT
POINT TAKEN.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO *SAY* IS THAT IF THE COUNTRY KEEPS SLIDING IN THE DIRECTION WE'RE GOING, SOONER OR LATER THE TROUBLE WE'RE SEEING EVERYWHERE ELSE IS GOING TO COME KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR, AND BY THEN IT'LL BE TOO BIG FOR ANY OR *ALL* OF YOU TO STOP IT.
WE NEED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO THROW SAND IN THE GEARS AND SLOW DOWN THE MACHINE. EXPOSE THE CORRUPTION, GO AFTER THE ENABLERS AND THE COLLABORATORS, TAKE THEM *ALL* DOWN, BECAUSE IF WE *DON'T*--
--IMAGINE WHAT PRESIDENT LANE COULD DO TO THIS COUNTRY WITH *TENS OF THOUSANDS* OF POWERED INDIVIDUALS FORCED TO OPERATE UNDER HIS *SOLE AUTHORITY*, OUTSIDE THE REGULAR CHAIN OF COMMAND
TOTAL CONTROL.
TOTAL AUTHORITY.
WE'RE TALKING FASCISM ON A SCALE WE'VE NEVER EVEN *SEEN* BEFORE.
AND WHILE YOU'RE CONSIDERING *THAT*, HERE'S ANOTHER QUESTION FOR YOU.
WHO WAS THE "OTHER GUY" WHO CAME HERE EARLIER, AND WHAT, EXACTLY, DID HE WANT YOU TO DO?
"WE'VE GOT THREE HOURS BEFORE WE LAND--"

--SO YOU SHOULD PROBABLY PUT THIS ON. TAKE TIME TO GET COMFORTABLE WITH IT.
IT PROVIDES FACIAL SECURITY AGAINST DIGITAL RECOGNITION SYSTEMS. THE MATERIAL IS RESISTANT TO TRANSFERRING DNA OR FINGERPRINT INFORMATION WHILE ALLOWING FREE PASSAGE OF AIR.
TOTALLY STEALTH-TECH.
NO SYMBOLS. NO INSIGNIA.
NO, SIR. NOTHING THAT CAN BE TRACKED BACK. IF WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, *YOU* CAN'T BE HERE, AND IF *YOU'RE* NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE—
--THEN OFFICIALLY, YOU'RE NOT.
IT'S JUST...IT'S NOT REALLY *ME*, IS IT?
OUR TEAM WORKED OFF THE PARAMETERS WE WERE GIVEN.
LET ME FIX IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY THINK *THIS* KID IS GOING TO DO AGAINST THE TARGETS. CRAP, I COULD TAKE HIM.
OURS IS NOT TO QUESTION WHY, OURS IS BUT TO DO OR--
ALL DONE.

MUCH BETTER.
"I'M WORRIED."

BARILLAS, GUATEMALA.
YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRIED, ELISE.
I'M WORRIED THAT YOU'RE NOT WORRIED.
CAFETERIA
I HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO THE SONG OF THE WIRES AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN A WHISPER ABOUT WHAT WE DID AT THE BLACK SITE.
OF COURSE NOT. TO COMPLAIN OR FILE CHARGES WOULD LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT THE CIA HAD A BLACK SITE HERE, AND THIS THEY WILL NEVER DO.
FROM THIS DAY ON, WE WILL NOT BE A STAGING GROUND FOR INTERNATIONAL TERROR AND THE SUPPRESSION OF THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE.
I'M JUST SAYING THAT I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN WE WERE GOING AFTER TRAFFICKERS AND PIMPS AND—
BZZZZZZT
AND THERE, MI AMIGA, WE AGREE I HAVE BEEN DOING SOME DIGGING AND I BELIEVE I HAVE FOUND—
OHMYGOD—
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
—I SAID DO YOU KNOW WHO THESE ARE?

DO YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES?
~GGHMMHN~
DON'T TRY TO TALK, JUST NOD OR SHAKE YOUR HEAD, I'LL FEEL THE MUSCLES.
AH. TOO BAD.

SNAP
WHO WANTS TO GO NEXT?

SMASH!
SLAM
WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE.
MONSTER!
WELL, YEAH.

HE WANTS TO TELL THEM WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THEM
HE WANTS TO TELL THEM THEY'RE ABOUT TO DIE.
NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE WEAKER, WHICH THEY ARE, BUT BECAUSE LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, THEY'RE STUPID.
THEY WERE SO BUSY BEING GLAD TO BE ALIVE, TO BE REBORN, AND TO SUDDENLY BE STRONG OR FAST OR ABLE TO FLY THAT THEY NEVER WENT ANY DEEPER.
THEY NEVER ASKED HOW IT WORKS..OR WHAT ELSE THEY COULD DO THAT THEY NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT.
HE WANTED TO TELL THEM THAT SINCE THE POWERS ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES TO OUR DNA, ORGANIC END TO END, THEN THEY WORK THE WAY THE HUMAN BODY WORKS.

RAMPED UP PHEROMONES AS STRONG AS COCAINE LET YOU CONTROL OTHER PEOPLE, MAKE THEM LOVE YOU...DO WHATEVER YOU WANT THEM TO DO.
STRESS CAN CAUSE PHYSICAL CHANGES TO THE BRAIN, THE SKIN, THE INTERNAL ORGANS. NOW THAT GOES TO A NEW LEVEL.
THE EYE DOESN'T SEE OTHER PEOPLE, IT SEES THE LIGHT REFLECTING OFF THEIR SKIN. CHANGE THE CELLULAR STRUCTURE SO SKIN CELLS ABSORB LIGHT INSTEAD OF REFLECTING IT...AND THEY'RE GONE.

HE WANTS TO TELL THEM ALL OF IT. BUT THAT SORT OF THING ONLY HAPPENS IN COMIC BOOKS.
AND THIS IS THE REAL WORLD.
BUT HE DECIDES TO TELL THEM A LITTLE.
BECAUSE IT'S FUN.
I CAN CONTROL MY HEART RATE. OH, SURE, LOTS OF PEOPLE CAN DO THAT, MAKE IT SLOW DOWN OR SPEED UP. BUT I FOUND OUT--
--I CAN ALSO DO IT TO YOU.
I CAN SPEED IT UP UNTIL YOUR HEART WANTS TO TEAR ITSELF OUT OF YOUR CHEST--
BUMP-BUMP-BUMP-BUMP
BUMPBUMPBUMPBUMPBUMP
--OR SLOW IT DOWN UNTIL EVERYTHING STARTS GOING DARK.
BUMP-BUMP-BUMP-BUMP
BUMP... BUMP... BUMP...
I'M KILLING YOU FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
COOL, HUH?
"I WAS TOLD THIS IS A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN."

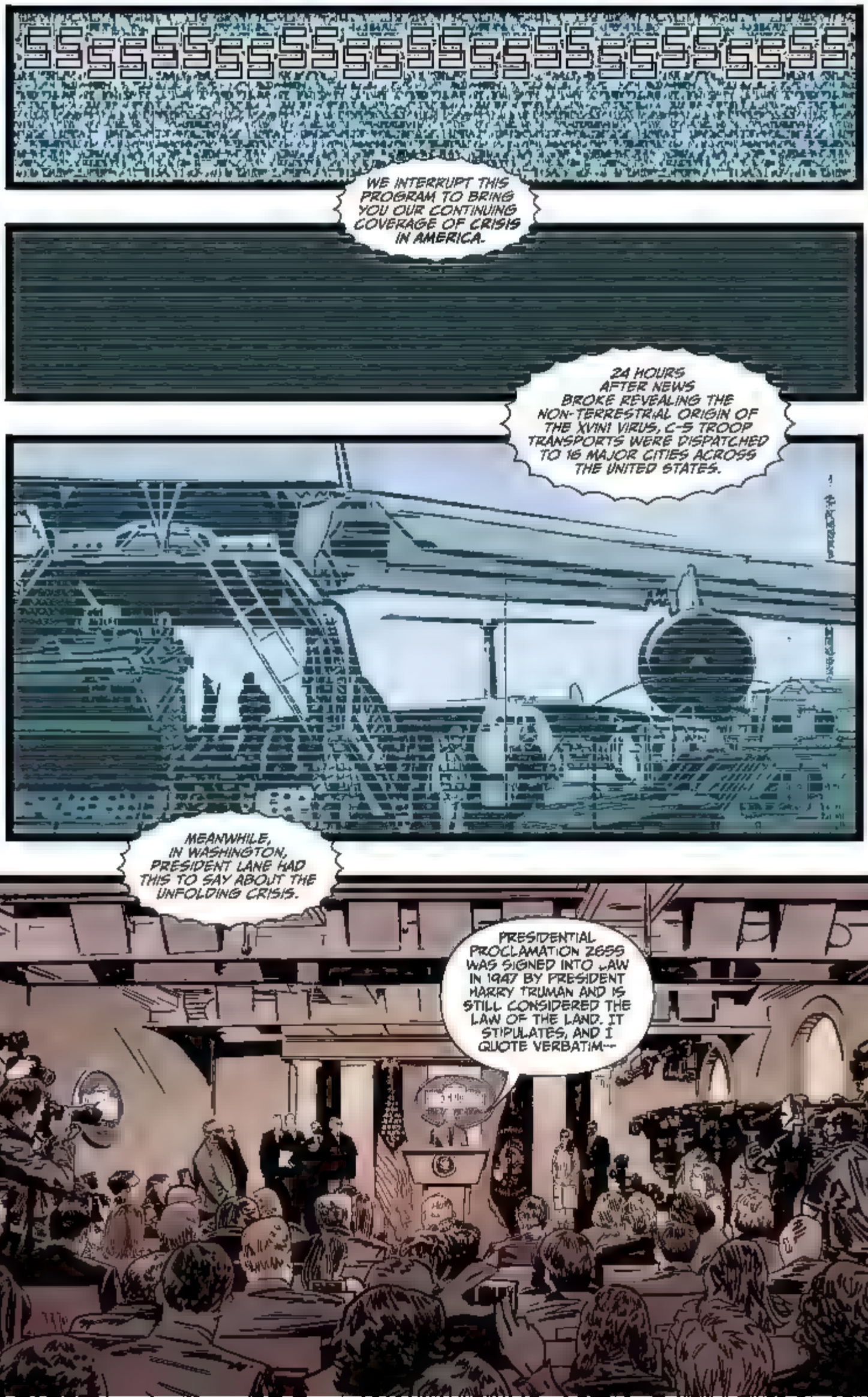
THE GRAVEST CONCERN IMAGINABLE, MR. LEE. THE PRIOR ADMINISTRATION TRIED TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM THE TRUTH, BUT WE'VE REACHED A POINT IN THIS CRISIS WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO PULL BACK THE CURTAIN FOR EVERYONE'S GOOD
AND I WANT *YOU*, AND YOUR *NETWORK*, TO TAKE THIS INFORMATION OUT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

EVER SINCE THE VIRUS FIRST *APPEARED* IN NEW MEXICO, EVERYONE HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE IDENTITY OF *PATIENT ZERO.*
BUT THERE *WAS* NO PATIENT ZERO.

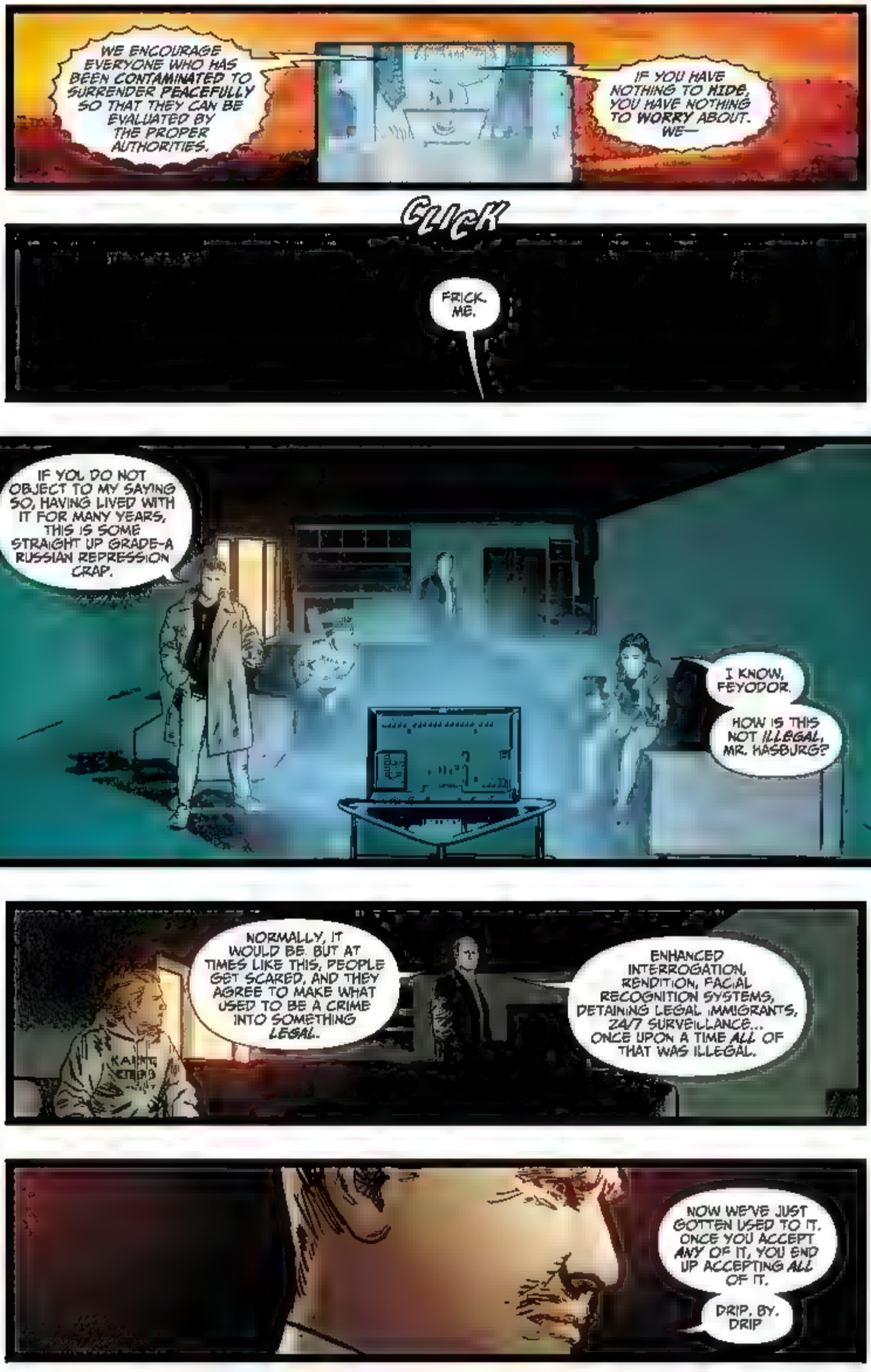
BECAUSE THIS WAS NEVER A *HUMAN* VIRUS.
OPEN HER UP.

ARE YOU SAYING IT WAS A *MUTATION* FROM BATS OR MICE OR--
NOT EXACTLY.
WWRRRRRR

IT CAME HERE ON A METEOR, MR. LEE.
THAT METEOR.
IT WAS SENT HERE TO KILL THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF EARTH SO OTHERS COULD MOVE IN. BUT IT FAILED BECAUSE GOOD OLD AMERICAN KNOW-HOW CAME UP WITH A CURE.
SO IT SET OFF A GENETIC KILL SWITCH AROUND THE PLANET THAT CREATED THESE SO-CALLED REBORNS.
THEY'RE NOT HEROES, MR. LEE.
THEY'RE BARELY EVEN HUMAN.
THEY WERE CREATED TO FINISH THE JOB AND WIPE OUT THE HUMAN RACE AS SOON AS THEY GET THE GO-ORDER.
UNLESS WE STOP THEM.


WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU OUR CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CRISIS IN AMERICA.
24 HOURS AFTER NEWS BROKE REVEALING THE NON-TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN OF THE XVIN1 VIRUS, C-5 TROOP TRANSPORTS WERE DISPATCHED TO 16 MAJOR CITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.
MEANWHILE, IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT LANE HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT THE UNFOLDING CRISIS.
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 2655 WAS SIGNED INTO LAW IN 1947 BY PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN AND IS STILL CONSIDERED THE LAW OF THE LAND. IT STIPULATES, AND I QUOTE VERBATIM--

"—ALL ALIEN ENEMIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES WHO SHALL BE DEEMED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BE DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC PEACE AND SAFETY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES."
WE'VE ALSO JUST RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT CONGRESS HAS VOTED TO REACTIVATE THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950, WHICH AUTHORIZED THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF THOSE FOUND TO BE ACTING ON THE BEHALF OF A FOREIGN POWER.
WE'RE NOT SAYING THAT EVERY SURVIVOR WHO WAS GIVEN UNPARALLELED POWERS BY FORCES OUTSIDE OUR WORLD IS AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE, BUT WE CAN'T SAY THEY'RE NOT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
WE CAN'T KNOW FOR SURE WHO IS FOR US OR AGAINST US UNTIL WE HAVE THESE INDIVIDUALS, AND THE SITUATION, UNDER CONTROL.
SOME COULD EVEN BE FIFTH COLUMNISTS WORKING AGAINST US WITHOUT KNOWING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED.

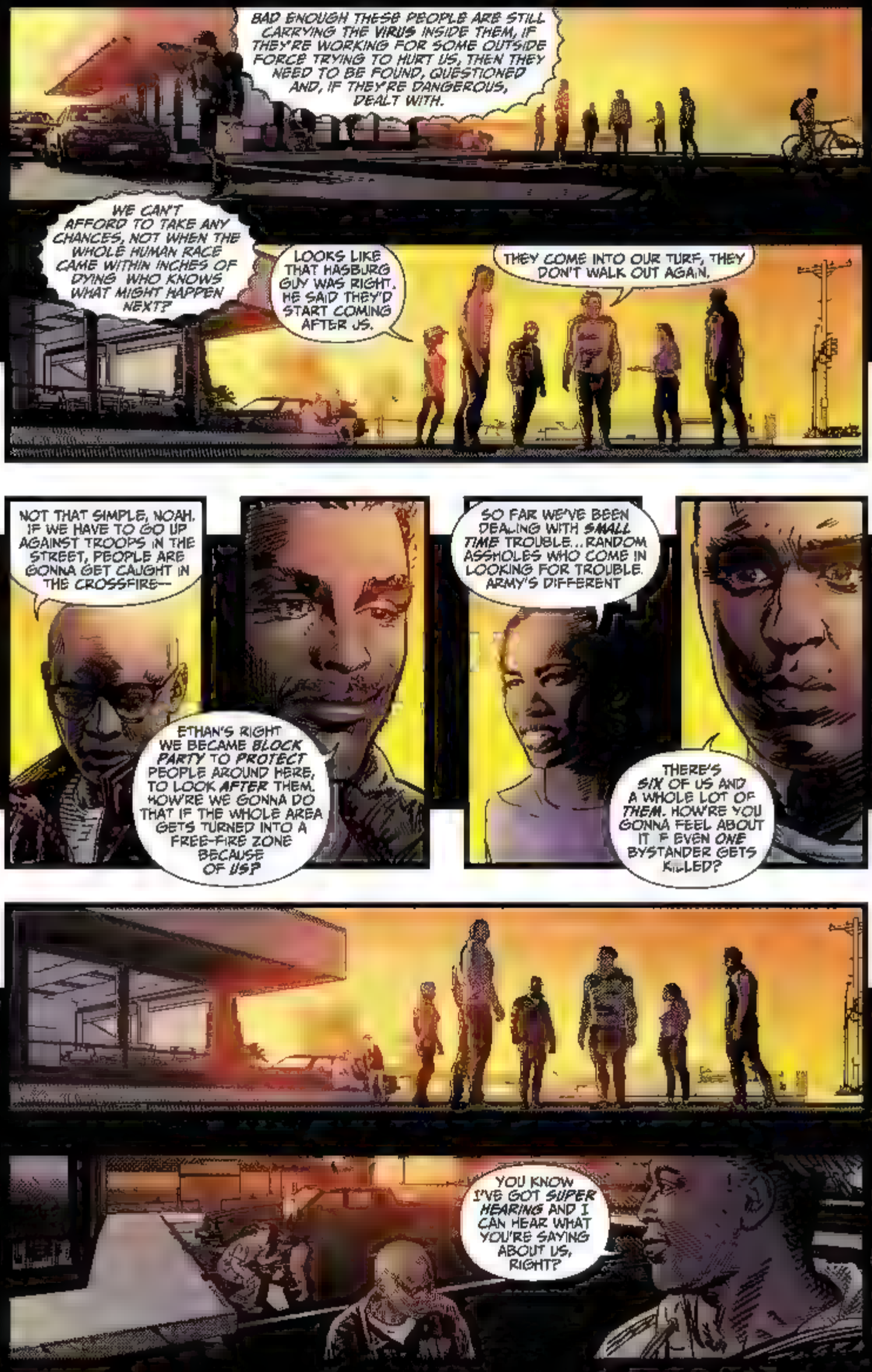

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED TO SURRENDER PEACEFULLY SO THAT THEY CAN BE EVALUATED BY THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WE—
CLICK
FRICK. ME.
IF YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO MY SAYING SO, HAVING LIVED WITH IT FOR MANY YEARS, THIS IS SOME STRAIGHT UP GRADE-A RUSSIAN REPRESSION CRAP.
I KNOW, FEYODOR.
HOW IS THIS NOT ILLEGAL, MR. HASBURG?
NORMALLY, IT WOULD BE. BUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS, PEOPLE GET SCARED, AND THEY AGREE TO MAKE WHAT USED TO BE A CRIME INTO SOMETHING LEGAL.
ENHANCED INTERROGATION, RENDITION, FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEMS, DETAINING LEGAL IMMIGRANTS, 24/7 SURVEILLANCE... ONCE UPON A TIME ALL OF THAT WAS ILLEGAL.
NOW WE'VE JUST GOTTEN USED TO IT. ONCE YOU ACCEPT ANY OF IT, YOU END UP ACCEPTING ALL OF IT.
DRIP. BY. DRIP

PEOPLE *FORGET* THAT THE NUREMBERG TRIALS AFTER WORLD WAR TWO DIDN'T JUST GO AFTER THE *GENERALS*.
THEIR *MAIN* TARGETS WERE THE *JUDGES* AND *LAWYERS* WHO MADE THE ACTIONS OF THE THIRD REICH *LEGAL* UNDER GERMAN LAW.

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, JAMES?
DON'T BOTHER. HE HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE HE GOT BACK...BRAIN'S STILL SCRAMBLED FROM LISA'S MENTAL *UPLOAD*.
YES, BUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT GET THROUGH.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, JAMES?

I LIKE CAKE.
"IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE SURE WE'RE *SAFE*, THEN I'M FINE WITH IT."

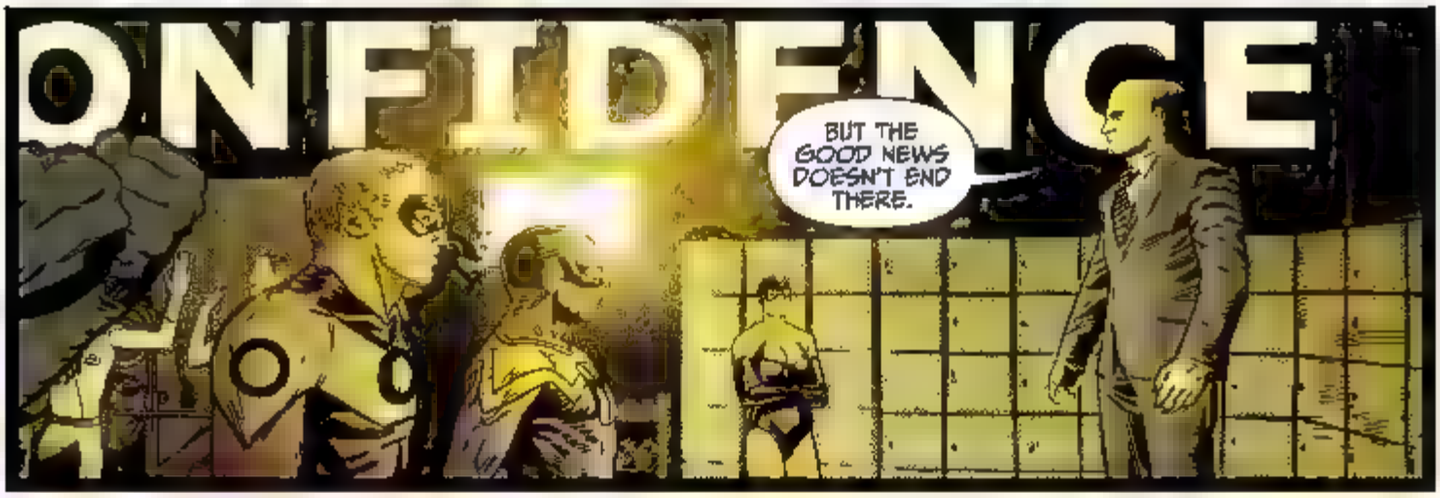

BAD ENOUGH THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL CARRYING THE VIRUS INSIDE THEM, IF THEY'RE WORKING FOR SOME OUTSIDE FORCE TRYING TO HURT US, THEN THEY NEED TO BE FOUND, QUESTIONED AND, IF THEY'RE DANGEROUS, DEALT WITH.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES, NOT WHEN THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE CAME WITHIN INCHES OF DYING. WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT?
LOOKS LIKE THAT HASBURG GUY WAS RIGHT. HE SAID THEY'D START COMING AFTER US.
THEY COME INTO OUR TURF, THEY DON'T WALK OUT AGAIN.
NOT THAT SIMPLE, NOAH. IF WE HAVE TO GO UP AGAINST TROOPS IN THE STREET, PEOPLE ARE GONNA GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE--
ETHAN'S RIGHT. WE BECAME BLOCK PARTY TO PROTECT PEOPLE AROUND HERE, TO LOOK AFTER THEM. HOW'RE WE GONNA DO THAT IF THE WHOLE AREA GETS TURNED INTO A FREE-FIRE ZONE BECAUSE OF US?
SO FAR WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH SMALL TIME TROUBLE... RANDOM ASSHOLES WHO COME IN LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. ARMY'S DIFFERENT
THERE'S SIX OF US AND A WHOLE LOT OF THEM. HOW'RE YOU GONNA FEEL ABOUT IT IF EVEN ONE BYSTANDER GETS KILLED?
YOU KNOW I'VE GOT SUPER HEARING AND I CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ABOUT US, RIGHT?

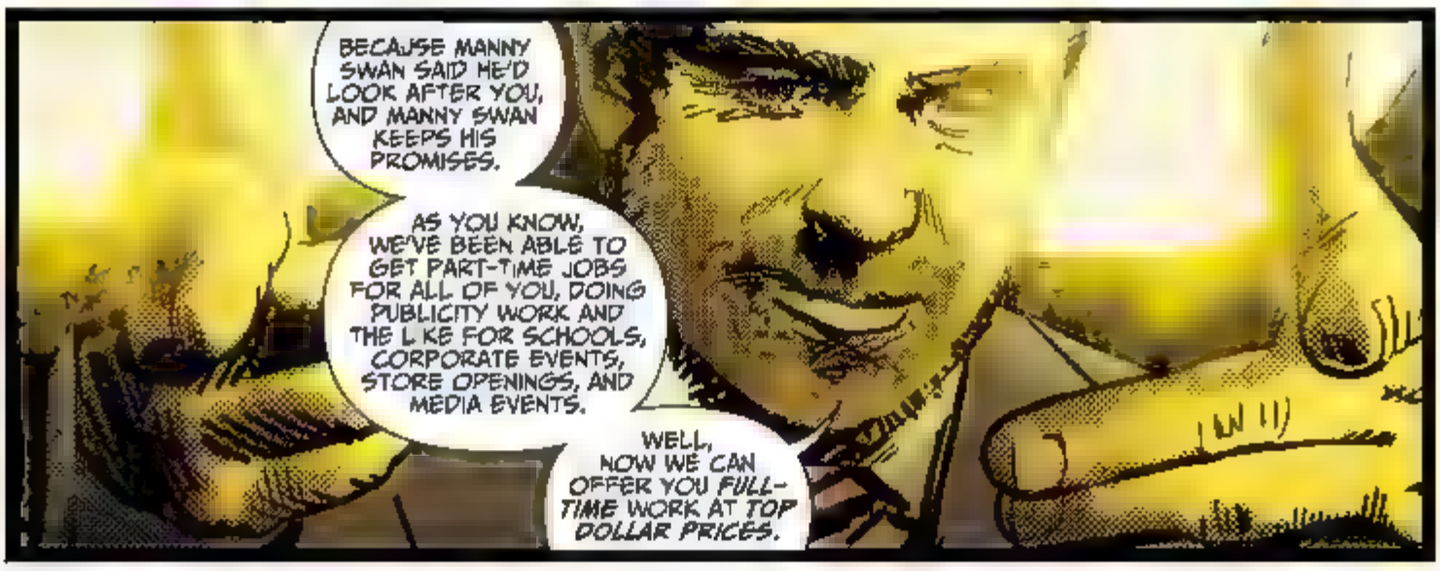
YOU DON'T HAVE SUPER HEARING.
YEAH, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT.
NOT LIKE WE NEEDED TO HEAR IT ANYWAY. PRETTY OBVIOUS TO ME.
NEWS ABOUT HOW THE VIRUS CAME FROM SOMEPLACE OUT IN SPACE HAS EVERYBODY SCARED HELL, THE IDEA CREEPS ME OUT JUST AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE
I KNOW, BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT DIVIDE SURVIVORS LIKE JS, OR PRETTY SOON WE'LL BE FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES.
AND THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT.
POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENTS HOLD ON TO POWER BY MAKING SURE WE'RE SO BUSY FIGHTING EACH OTHER THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR ENERGY TO FIGHT THEM. AND THAT'S THE REAL REASON THIS SCARES THEM SO BAD.
EVERYBODY WHO SURVIVED THE BIG DEATH AND CAME OUT WITH POWERS SHARES THAT EXPER ENCE WITH EVERYBODY ELSE.
DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, WHERE YOU COME FROM, OR WHAT LANGUAGE YOU SPEAK. IT UNITES US. MAKES US ONE. THAT'S WHAT REALLY SCARES 'EM.
SO ARE YOU SAYING WE SHOULD SWING BACK TO HASBURG, MAYBE TAKE HIM UP ON HIS DEAL?
YEAH. I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING.
WE NEED TO START COMING TOGETHER ON OUR SIDE. BECAUSE IF WE DON'T, YOU CAN BET YOUR ASS THEY'LL FIND SOME WAY TO DO IT FIRST--

"--AND IT AIN'T GONNA BE PRETTY."
"I KNOW MANY OF YOU SEEING THE NEWS ARE WORRIED ABOUT WHERE ALL THIS IS GOING, BUT I'M HERE TO TELL YOU IT'S OKAY."
SWAN KIRBY CHASE

THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH REBORNS--
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE TV SAYS, MANNY.
--THEY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH REBORNS THAT THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT, WILD CLAW, OR THOSE THAT MAY HAVE SOME KIND OF AGENDA.

WHEN YOU ALL SIGNED UP WITH THE SWAN KIRBY CHASE POWERS EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, WE FILED ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK WITH THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES.
LONG STORY SHORT: THEY'RE COOL WITH YOU. ALL OF YOU.

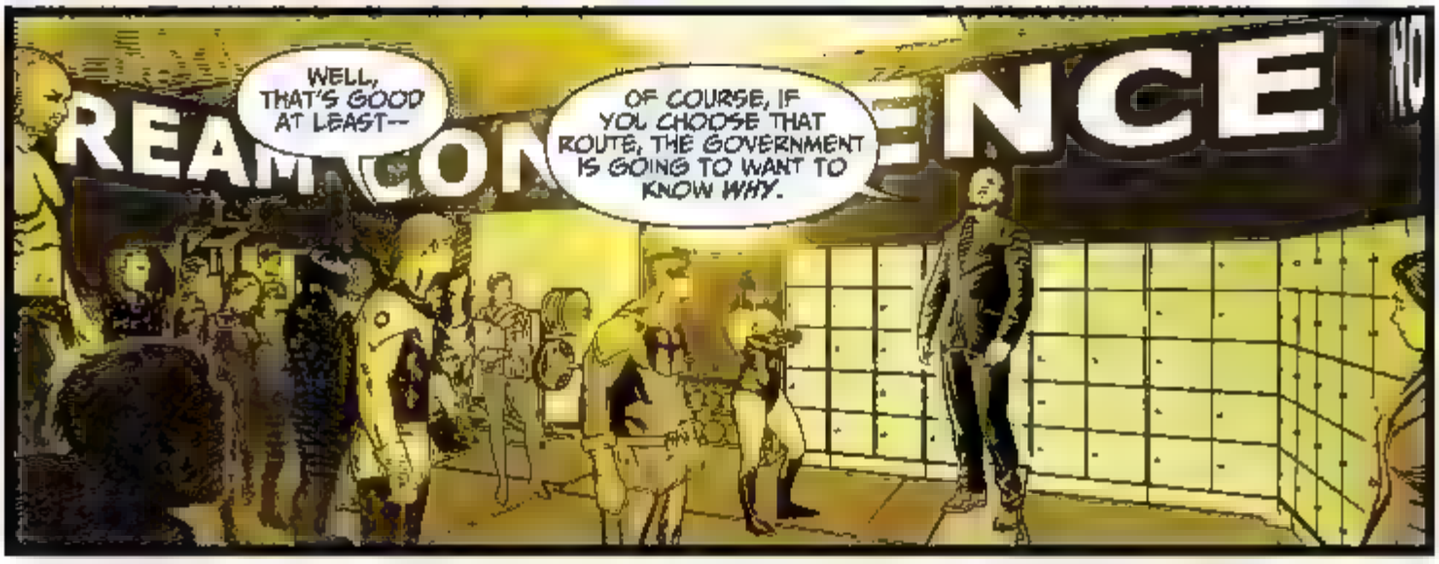

BUT THE GOOD NEWS DOESN'T END THERE.

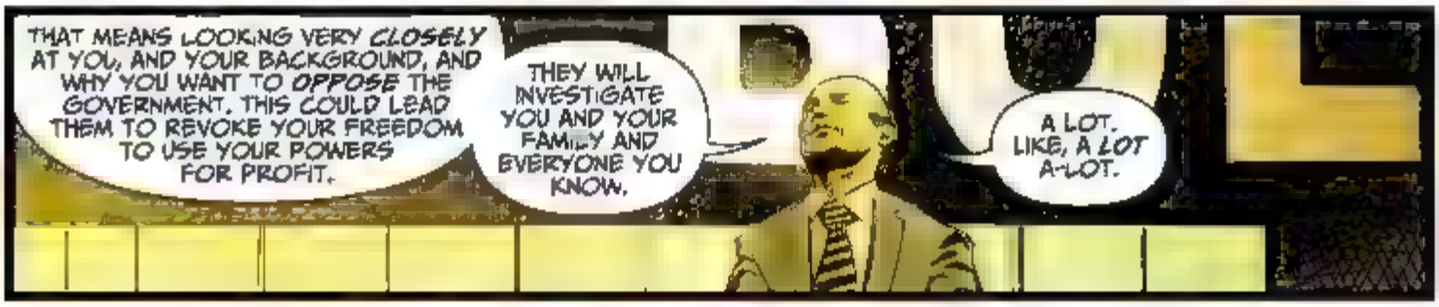

BECAUSE MANNY SWAN SAID HE'D LOOK AFTER YOU, AND MANNY SWAN KEEPS HIS PROMISES.
AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET PART-TIME JOBS FOR ALL OF YOU, DOING PUBLICITY WORK AND THE LIKE FOR SCHOOLS, CORPORATE EVENTS, STORE OPENINGS, AND MEDIA EVENTS.
WELL, NOW WE CAN OFFER YOU FULL-TIME WORK AT TOP DOLLAR PRICES.

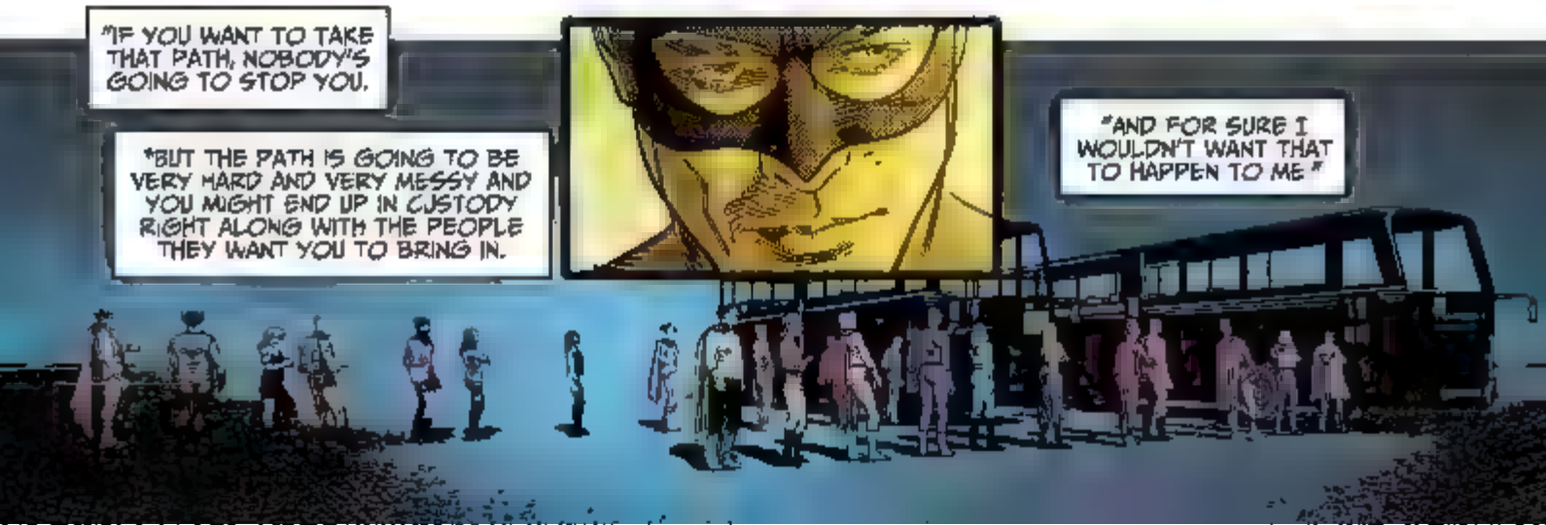
MANNY THE MAN. HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH.
YOU'VE GOT IT, ULTRA PATRIOT SO HERE'S WHAT WE'RE DOING.
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, WE'RE GOING FROM SERVING *CORPORATE* ACCOUNTS TO *FEDERAL* ACCOUNTS. AS OF NOW, ALL OF YOU WORK FOR THE *GOVERNMENT*, HELPING LOCATE AND BRING IN REBORNS WHO REFUSE TO COME IN ON THEIR OWN.
FULL-TIME JOBS WITH *HEALTH PLANS* AND *PENSIONS!* HOW ABOUT THAT?
CONF
..WHUT?
BUSES WILL BE ARRIVING AS SOON AS THIS MEETING IS OVER TO TAKE YOU TO YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENTS. THIS IS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF YOU TO HELP OUT THE VERY PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO JSE YOUR POWERS WITHOUT FEAR OF—
EXCJSE ME.

WHAT IF WE DON'T *WANT* TO WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT?
YEAH--
I MEAN, THAT WASN'T EVEN AN *OPTION* WHEN WE SIGNED UP.

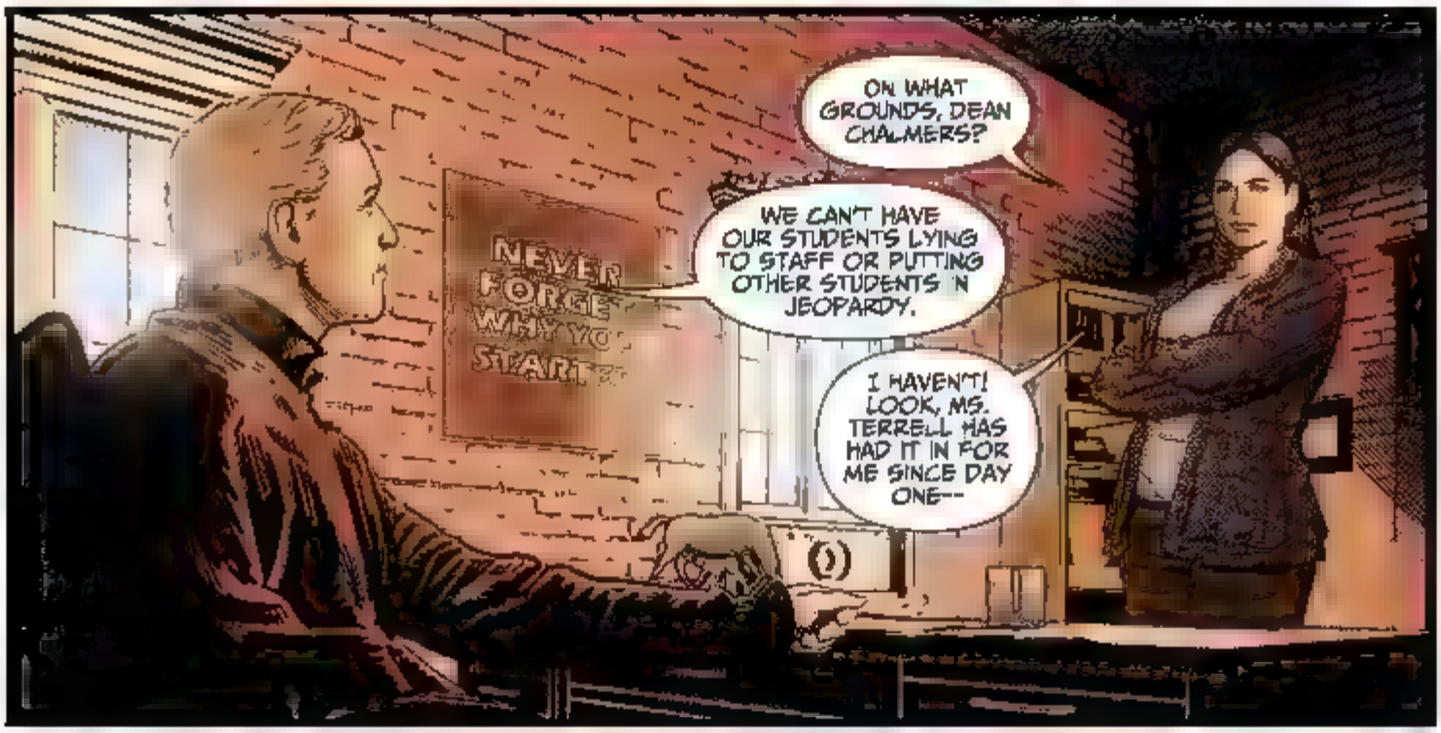
THAT'S COVERED BY THE "CHANGING VENUES" PROVISION IN YOUR CONTRACT. AS TO YOUR QUESTION.. NOBODY HAS TO WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHO DOESN'T WANT TO.

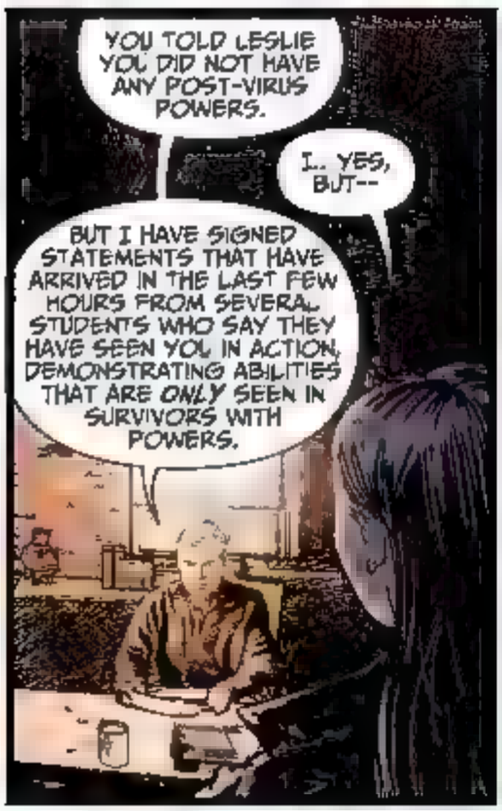

WELL, THAT'S GOOD AT LEAST--
OF COURSE, IF YOU CHOOSE THAT ROUTE, THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO WANT TO KNOW *WHY*.

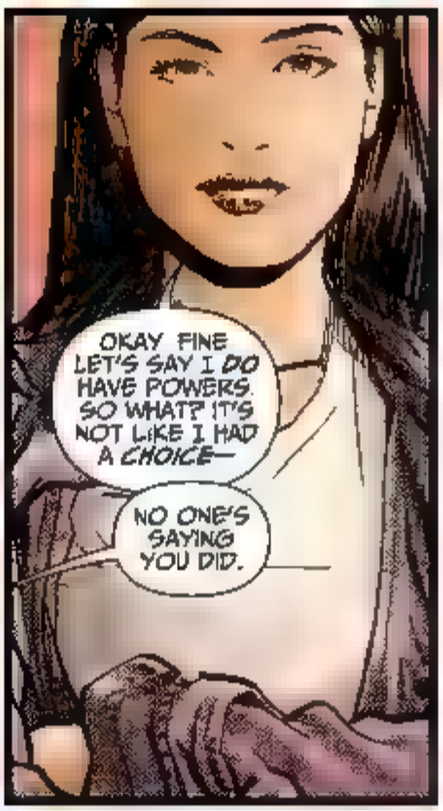

THAT MEANS LOOKING VERY *CLOSELY* AT YOU, AND YOUR BACKGROUND, AND WHY YOU WANT TO *OPPOSE* THE GOVERNMENT. THIS COULD LEAD THEM TO REVOKE YOUR FREEDOM TO USE YOUR POWERS FOR PROFIT.
THEY WILL INVESTIGATE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND EVERYONE YOU KNOW.
A LOT. LIKE, A *LOT* A-LOT.


"IF YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT PATH, NOBODY'S GOING TO STOP YOU.
"BUT THE PATH IS GOING TO BE VERY HARD AND VERY MESSY AND YOU MIGHT END UP IN CUSTODY RIGHT ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE THEY WANT YOU TO BRING IN.
"AND FOR SURE I WOULDN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO ME."

"I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LET YOU GO, SANDY."

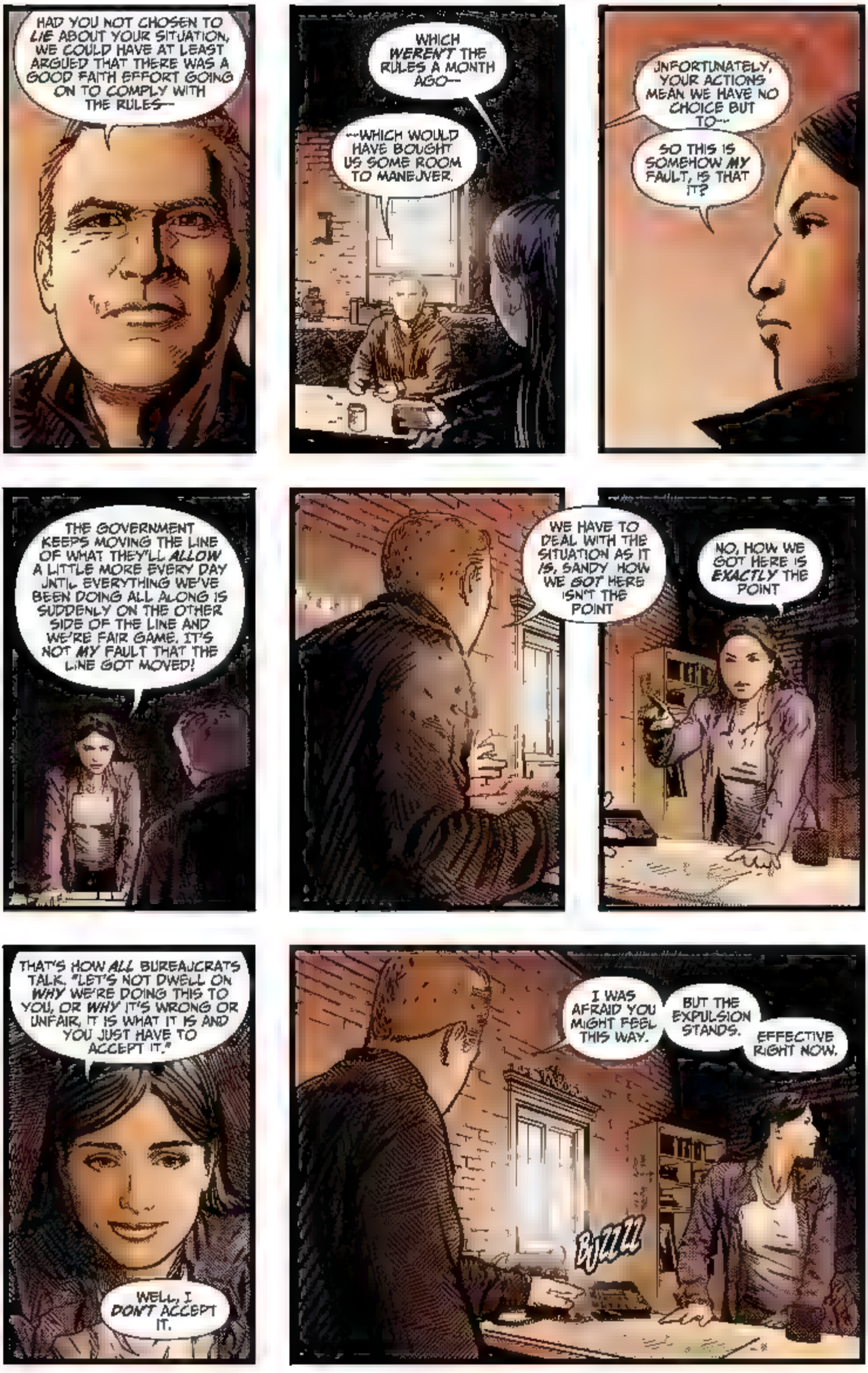

ON WHAT GROUNDS, DEAN CHALMERS?
WE CAN'T HAVE OUR STUDENTS LYING TO STAFF OR PUTTING OTHER STUDENTS IN JEOPARDY.
I HAVEN'T! LOOK, MS. TERRELL HAS HAD IT IN FOR ME SINCE DAY ONE--


YOU TOLD LESLIE YOU DID NOT HAVE ANY POST-VIRUS POWERS.
I.. YES, BUT--
BUT I HAVE SIGNED STATEMENTS THAT HAVE ARRIVED IN THE LAST FEW HOURS FROM SEVERAL STUDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN YOU IN ACTION, DEMONSTRATING ABILITIES THAT ARE *ONLY* SEEN IN SURVIVORS WITH POWERS.

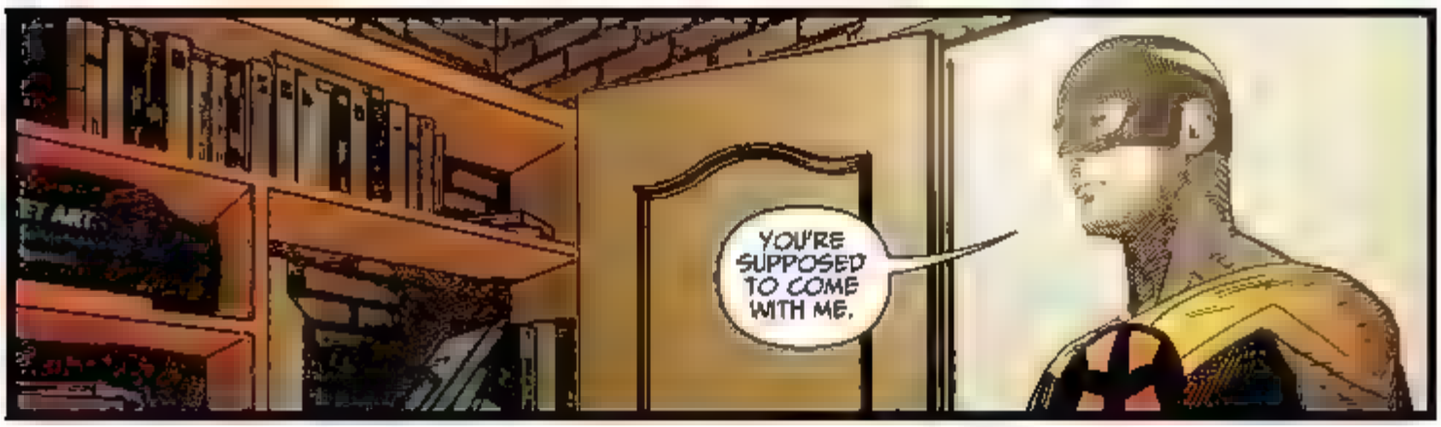

OKAY FINE LET'S SAY I *DO* HAVE POWERS. SO WHAT? IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A *CHOICE*—
NO ONE'S SAYING YOU DID.

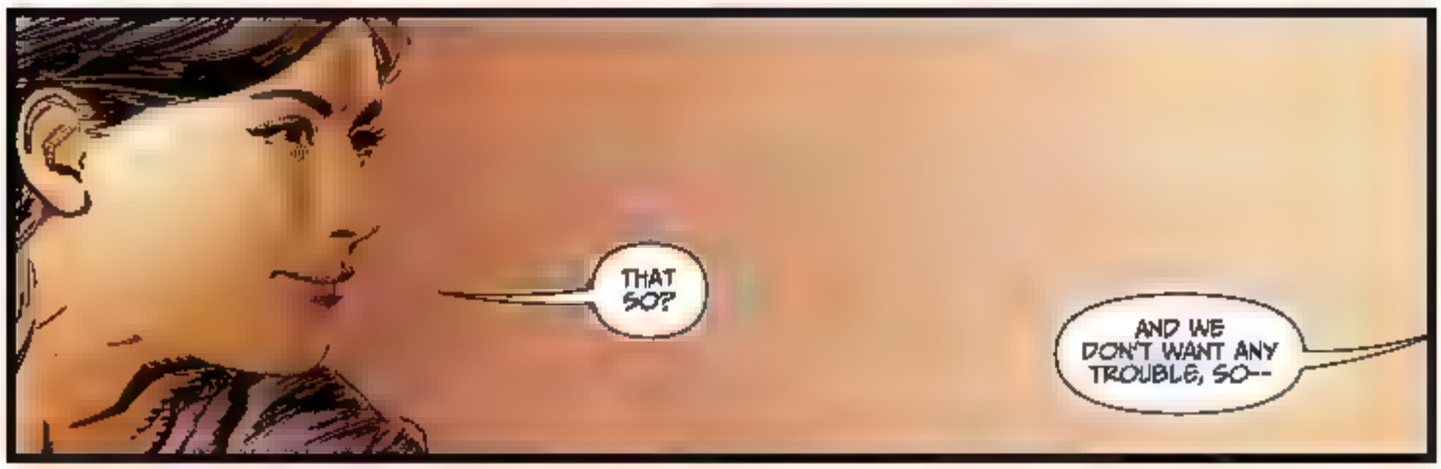
--MY GRADES ARE SOLID, I HAVEN'T MADE TROUBLE--
IT'S WHO AND WHAT YOU *ARE* THAT IS MAKING TROUBLE FOR US, SANDY.

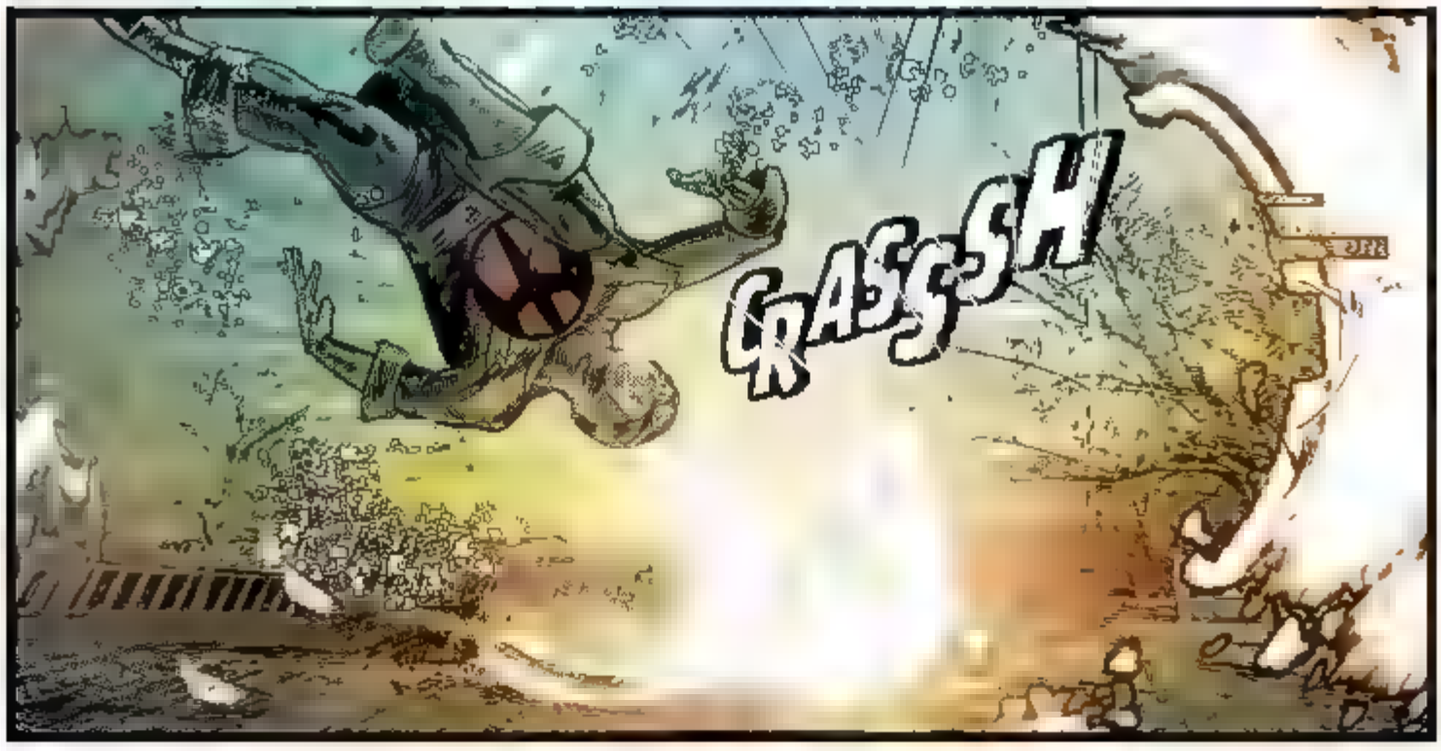
WE RECEIVED AN EMAIL TODAY FROM THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, ACTING ON A MANDATE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, THAT ANY UNIVERSITY FOUND TO BE HARBORING STUDENTS WITH POWERS OR PREVENTING THEIR IDENTIFICATION WILL HAVE THEIR FUNDING YANKED.


HAD YOU NOT CHOSEN TO *LIE* ABOUT YOUR SITUATION, WE COULD HAVE AT LEAST ARGUED THAT THERE WAS A GOOD FAITH EFFORT GOING ON TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES—
WHICH *WEREN'T* THE RULES A MONTH AGO—
—WHICH WOULD HAVE BOUGHT US SOME ROOM TO MANEUVER.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR ACTIONS MEAN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO—
SO THIS IS SOMEHOW *MY* FAULT, IS THAT IT?
THE GOVERNMENT KEEPS MOVING THE LINE OF WHAT THEY'LL *ALLOW* A LITTLE MORE EVERY DAY UNTIL EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG IS SUDDENLY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE AND WE'RE FAIR GAME. IT'S NOT *MY* FAULT THAT THE LINE GOT MOVED!
WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION AS IT *IS*, SANDY. HOW WE *GOT* HERE ISN'T THE POINT
NO, HOW WE GOT HERE IS *EXACTLY* THE POINT
THAT'S HOW *ALL* BUREAUCRATS TALK. "LET'S NOT DWELL ON *WHY* WE'RE DOING THIS TO YOU, OR *WHY* IT'S WRONG OR UNFAIR, IT IS WHAT IT IS AND YOU JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT."
WELL, I *DON'T* ACCEPT IT.
I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT FEEL THIS WAY.
BUT THE EXPULSION STANDS.
EFFECTIVE RIGHT NOW.
BZZZZ

JHM.
HI.


YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO COME WITH ME.

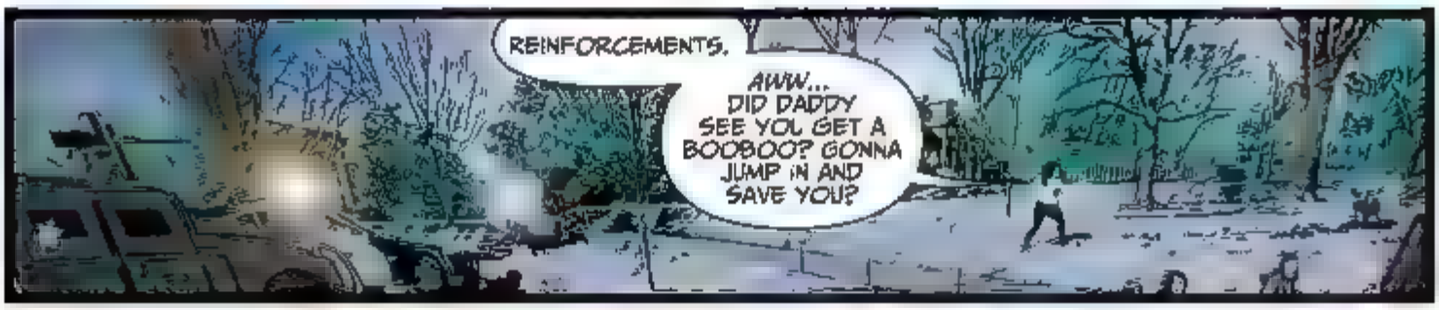

THAT SO?
AND WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE, SO--


CRASH

YOU'RE ONE OF *US*. WHY ARE YOU WORKING FOR *THEM*?
I DON'T HAVE ANY *CHOICE*.
YEAH, WELL, I'VE BEEN HEARING THAT A *LOT* TODAY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
WE *ALWAYS* HAVE A CHOICE.
AND *MY* CHOICE—
—IS TO KICK YOUR ASS.

DON'T TAKE THIS PERSONAL, BUT YOU CAN'T FIGHT FOR CRAP, LIKE YOU'VE BEEN TRAINED TO LOOK GOOD FIGHTING WITHOUT ACTUALLY KNOWING HOW TO DO IT FOR REALS.
YEAH? WELL, SCREW YOU.

WEEEOOOOO WEEEOOOOO


REINFORCEMENTS.
AWW... DID DADDY SEE YOU GET A BOOBOO? GONNA JUMP IN AND SAVE YOU?

I DON'T LIKE THE ODDS. YOU WANNA KEEP GOING? LET'S TAKE IT UP TOP.
I CAN'T, I--

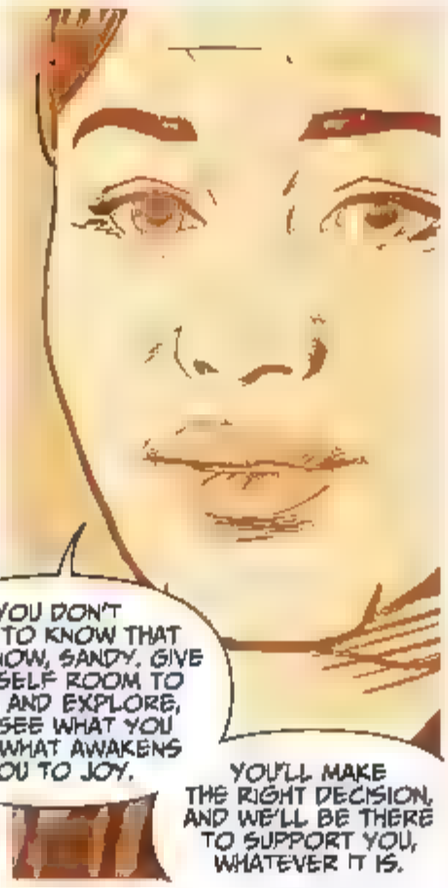
--I CAN'T FLY

HE CAN'T FLY.
HA-HA HA-HA-HA!
DICKWAD.

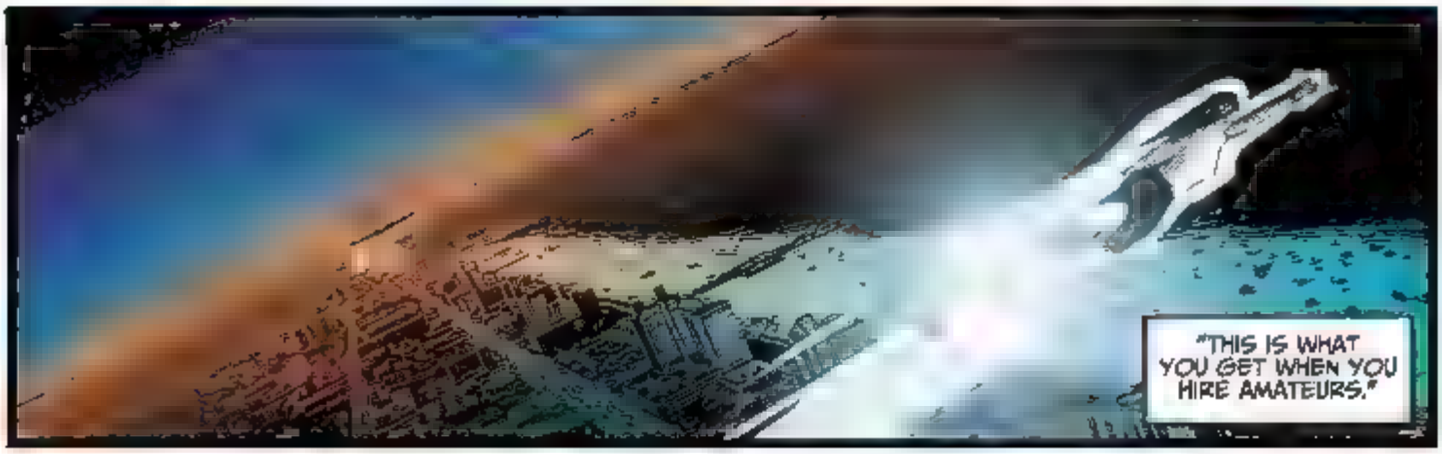
"WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU, SANDRA."

YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE FAMILY TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY.
AND *WHAT* A UNIVERSITY. TOP FLIGHT
YEAH... IT'S GREAT..

I JUST STILL FEEL A LITTLE WEIRD ABOUT WHAT THIS IS *COSTING* YOU. EVEN WITH THE HARDSHIP GRANTS AND LOANS IT'S A *LOT*--
AND YOU'RE WORTH EVERY *INCH* OF IT.
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT TO *MAJOR* IN.


YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW, SANDY. GIVE YOURSELF ROOM TO PLAY, AND EXPLORE, AND SEE WHAT YOU LIKE, WHAT AWAKENS YOU TO JOY.
YOU'LL MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION, AND WE'LL BE THERE TO SUPPORT YOU, WHATEVER IT IS.

"MAKE US PROUD, SANDY."

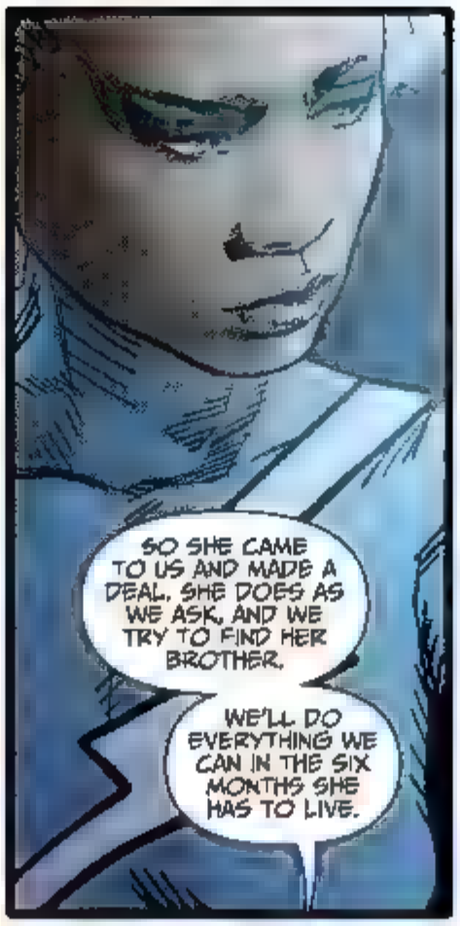

"THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU HIRE AMATEURS."

CALLING JP REBORNS FROM THE RECRUITMENT FARMS IS LIKE SENDING IN A BUNCH OF MINOR LEAGUE PLAYERS—
IT'S A STOP-GAP MEASURE FOR THE TIME BEING, TO EVEN JP THE ODDS A BIT AND LET THEM KNOW THAT OTHERS WITH THE SAME KIND OF POWER ARE WORKING FOR US.
IT'S A NUMBERS GAME, MARQUES. THE MORE, THE MERRIER.
THAT'S ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT
ANOTHER IS, THE BETTER THE MERRIER.
I DISAGREE. IN THE FIELD OF BATTLE, MACRO ALWAYS TRUMPS MICRO.
HOW ARE YOUR HANDFUL OF REBORNS GOING TO DEAL WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS?
THE SAME WAY GERMAN SOLDIERS WERE ABLE TO CONTROL POPULATIONS MANY TIMES BIGGER THAN THE ENTIRE ARMY.
THROUGH FEAR.
YOU DON'T NEED TO FIGHT EVERYONE IF YOU CAN MAKE THEM AFRAID TO EVEN TRY TO RESIST BY SEEING WHAT YOU DID TO THE OTHER GUY.
AND THIS TEAM CAN ACCOMPLISH THAT.
TO KEEP THE BASEBALL METAPHOR GOING FOR A MOMENT... WELCOME TO THE HOME TEAM.
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE CALLING THEM?
NO, THAT WOULD BE STUPID.

MR. PRESIDENT, I GIVE YOU--
ACTUALLY, I KIND OF LIKE CALLING THEM THE HOME TEAM.
BUT SIR--
CONTINUE.
--I GIVE YOU...
THE HOME TEAM!
"YOU ALREADY KNOW WILLIAM FROM THE FILES AND HIS RECENT ACTION IN GUATEMALA. THE OTHERS HAVE JUST JOINED US AND BEEN ASSIGNED OPERATIONAL COVER HANDLES."

"IN PRISON HE WAS KNOWN AS *RIPPER* EVEN BEFORE THE VIRUS HIT BECAUSE OF HIS TENDENCY TO RIP THE FINGERS OFF ANYONE WHO GOT BETWEEN HIM AND WHATEVER HE WANTED.
"SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR SIX MURDERS, HE WAS PRETTY SURE HE'D REACHED THE END OF THE ROAD WHEN THE VIRUS FOUND HIM AND MOST OF THE OTHER INMATES.
"BUT LIKE SO MANY, HE CAME BACK FROM THE EDGE OF THE GRAVE. WE ESTIMATE HE'S AT LEAST FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER REBORN WE'VE STUDIED."
WON'T IT LOOK BAD TO HAVE A *CONVICTED MURDERER* ON THE TEAM?
WE'VE ARRANGED FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO RETROACTIVELY DROP ALL CHARGES AND DECLARE IT A MISTRIAL.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS.
"*JOLT* IS A MOTH. SHE ACTIVATED HER POWERS IN HOPES OF USING THEM TO FIND HER BROTHER, A SOLDIER WHO WENT MISSING IN PAKISTAN. SHE WAS HOPING FOR FLIGHT, SUPER SENSES, THAT SORT OF THING."

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE POWERS SHE GOT IN THE MOTH LOTTERY - THE ABILITY TO CONTROL HER BODY'S ELECTRICITY TO A TERRIFYING EXTENT... AREN'T REALLY *SUITED* TO THAT."


SO SHE CAME TO US AND MADE A DEAL. SHE DOES AS WE ASK, AND WE TRY TO FIND HER BROTHER.
WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN IN THE SIX MONTHS SHE HAS TO LIVE.

"*SEER* CAME OUT THE OTHER END OF THE VIRUS WITH THE SORT OF PACKAGE THAT *JOLT* WANTED. HIS SENSES HAVE BEEN ENHANCED TO INCLUDE THE ENTIRE VISUAL RANGE, FAR BEYOND WHAT HUMANS CAN SEE OR HEAR OR EVEN IMAGINE. HE CAN EVEN HEAR CELL FREQUENCIES AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS.

"IT'S APPARENTLY A BIT MUCH TO HANDLE SOME DAYS...AND HE SAYS HE CAN SEE THINGS MOVING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS THAT NOBODY ELSE IS AWARE OF, WHICH IS A BIT ODD BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY IT...
"...BUT IF YOU WANT SOMEONE WHO CAN SCOPE OUT A SITUATION AND MONITOR EVERY FREQUENCY KNOWN TO MODERN SCIENCE, THIS IS YOUR GUY.

"*FIELD* EMITS PHEROMONES THAT CANCEL OUT THE POWER OF ANYONE WHO GETS WITHIN SIX FEET. SHE HAD ALREADY BEEN USING HER ABILITY TO DEAL WITH *REBORNS* ABUSING THEIR POWER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTHER PEOPLE WHEN WE FOUND HER."
AND WHAT ABOUT ME?
HIGHLY UNSTABLE, PARANOID-DELUSIONAL BUT COULD BE OUR BEST DEFENSE.

WHAT'S MY "OPERATIONAL COVER HANDLE?"
THEN I WANT SUPERM--
YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF THE POWER RANKS, WILLIAM, SO IT'S ANYTHING YOU WANT IT TO BE
ALREADY DISCUSSED CAN'T. COPYRIGHT. MOVE ON.

NEEDS TO BE SOMETHING APPROPRIATE TO HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF, OR HOW YOU WANT THE WORLD TO SEE YOU. SOMETHING CATCHY.
BUT ALSO, SOMETHING TRUE.

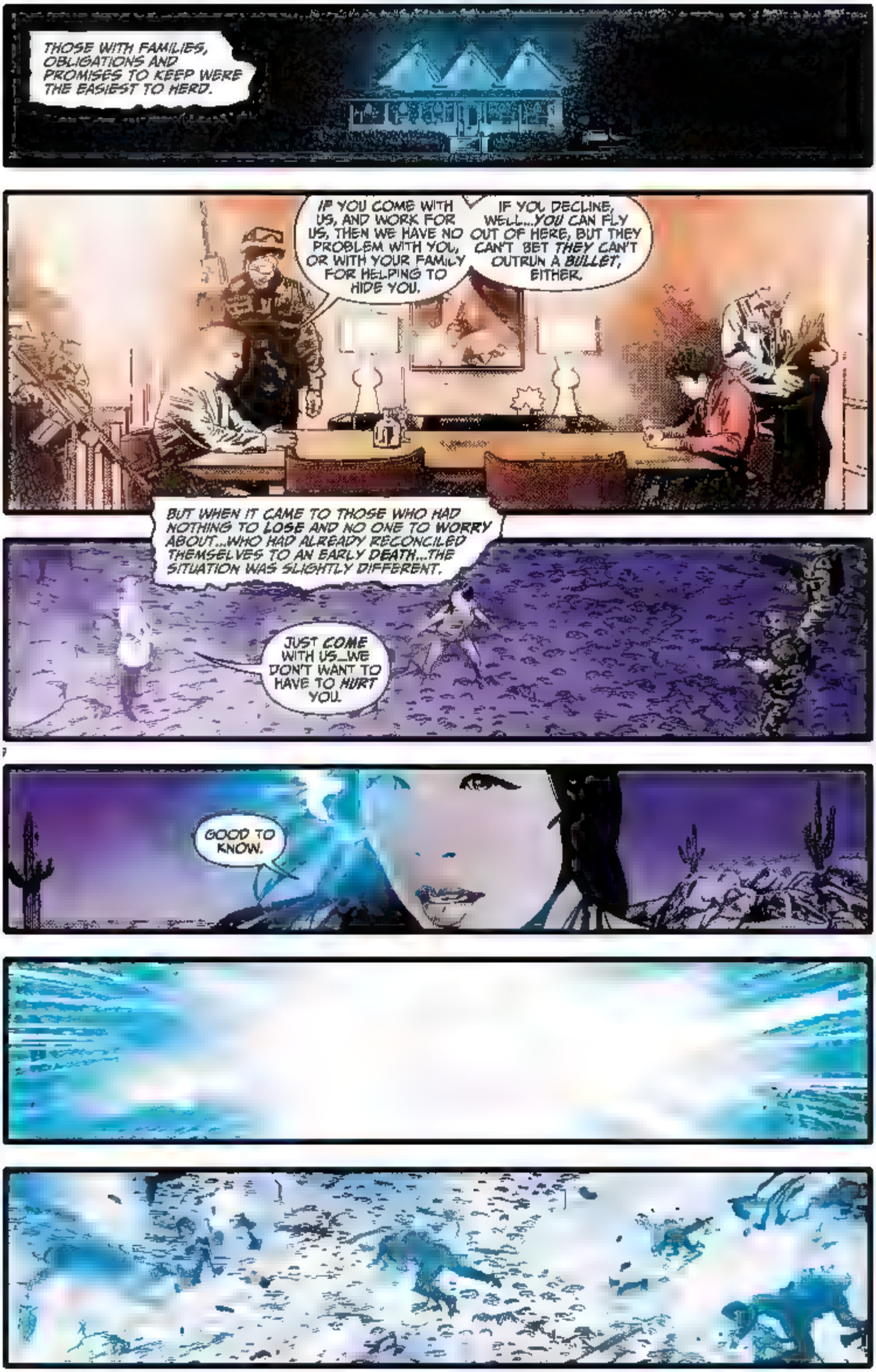
GOD.
IT'S GOD--
YOU CAN'T, IT'LL PISS OFF SOME OF OUR STRONGEST SUPPORTERS--
--OR I'M GONE.

ALL RIGHT, WILLIAM. GOD IT IS.

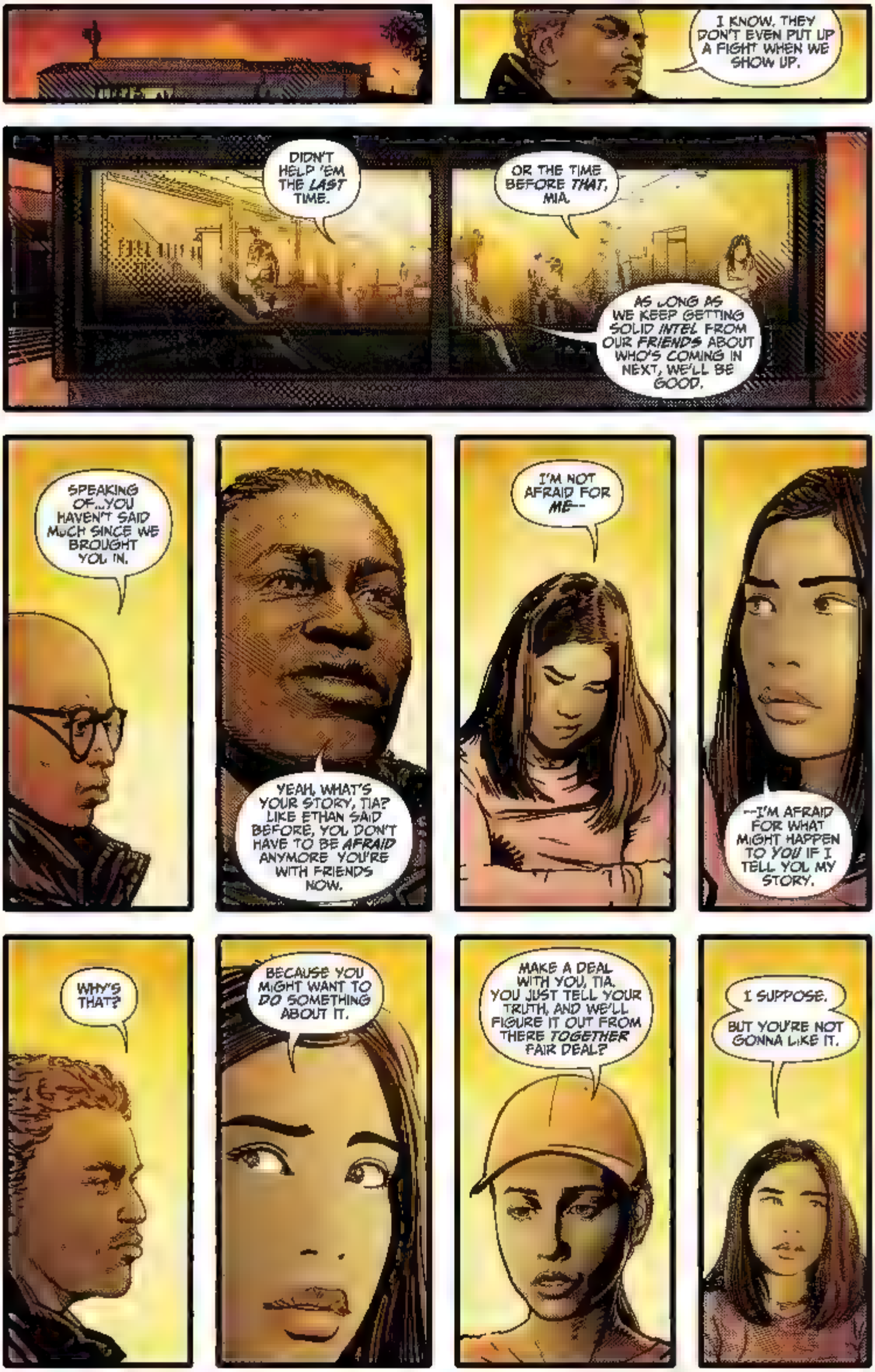
WE HAVE OUR HOME TEAM, GENTLEMEN.
GOD HELP US.

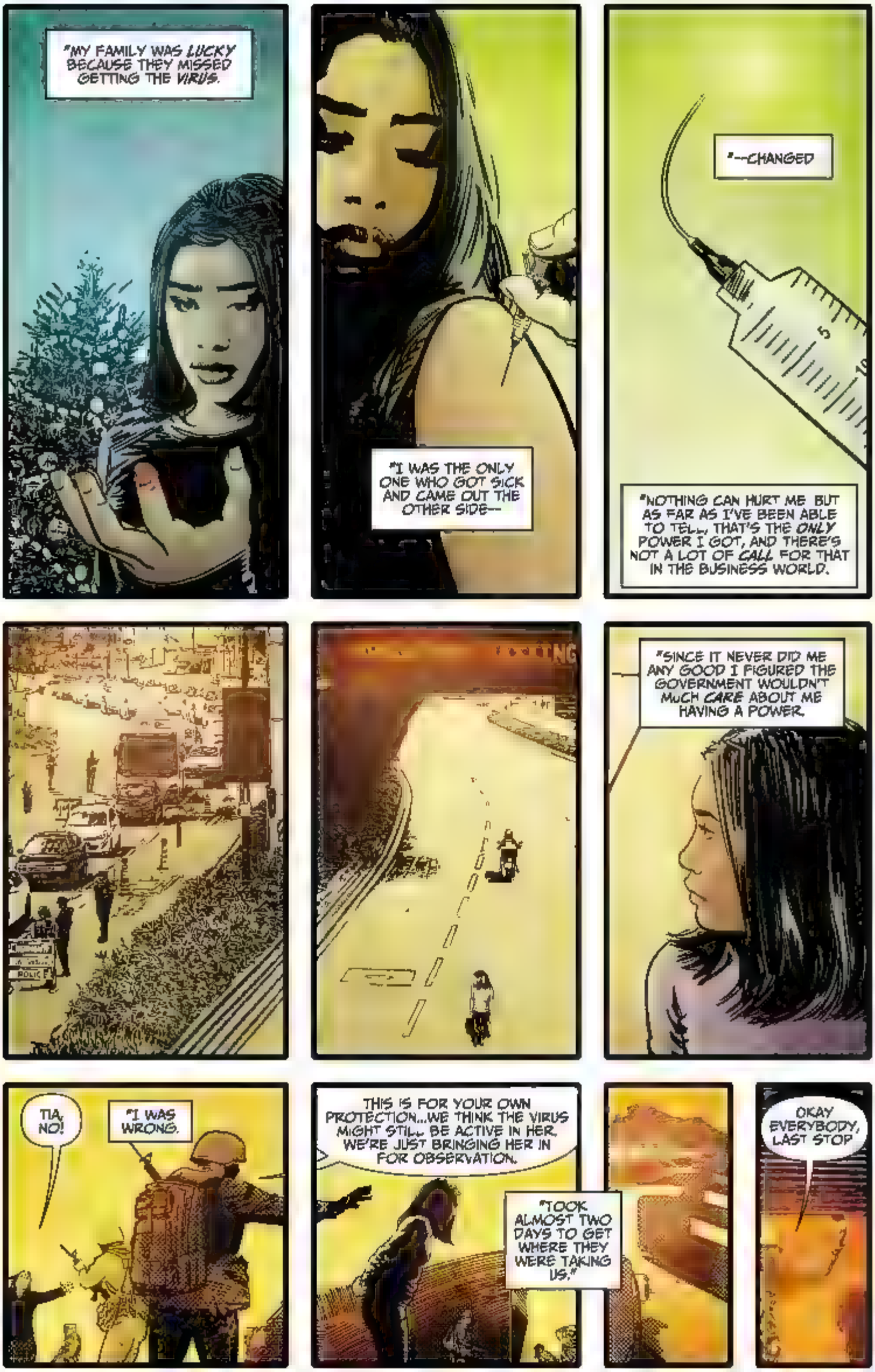
THE PRESS NICKNAMED THEM MOTHS: REBORNS WHO COULD CHOOSE TO ACTIVATE THEIR POWERS, OR LEAVE THEM INACTIVE AND UNKNOWN.
IF THEY CHOSE TO ACTIVATE THEIR POWERS, THEY HAD ONLY SIX MONTHS TO LIVE—
—BEFORE IT BURNED THEM OUT.
*FOR MORE ON THIS SCENE, READ MOTHS.
THEY ALL HAD DIFFERENT REASONS FOR WHAT THEY DID.
SOME USED THEIR POWERS TO CREATE ART AND BEAUTY... OTHERS TO EXPERIENCE FAME. SOME TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP THEIR FAMILIES...
..BUT IN JUST ABOUT EVERY CASE, THEIR EFFORTS INVOLVED SOCIAL MEDIA.
WHICH ONLY MADE IT EASIER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND THEM WHEN THE COLLECTIONS STARTED.

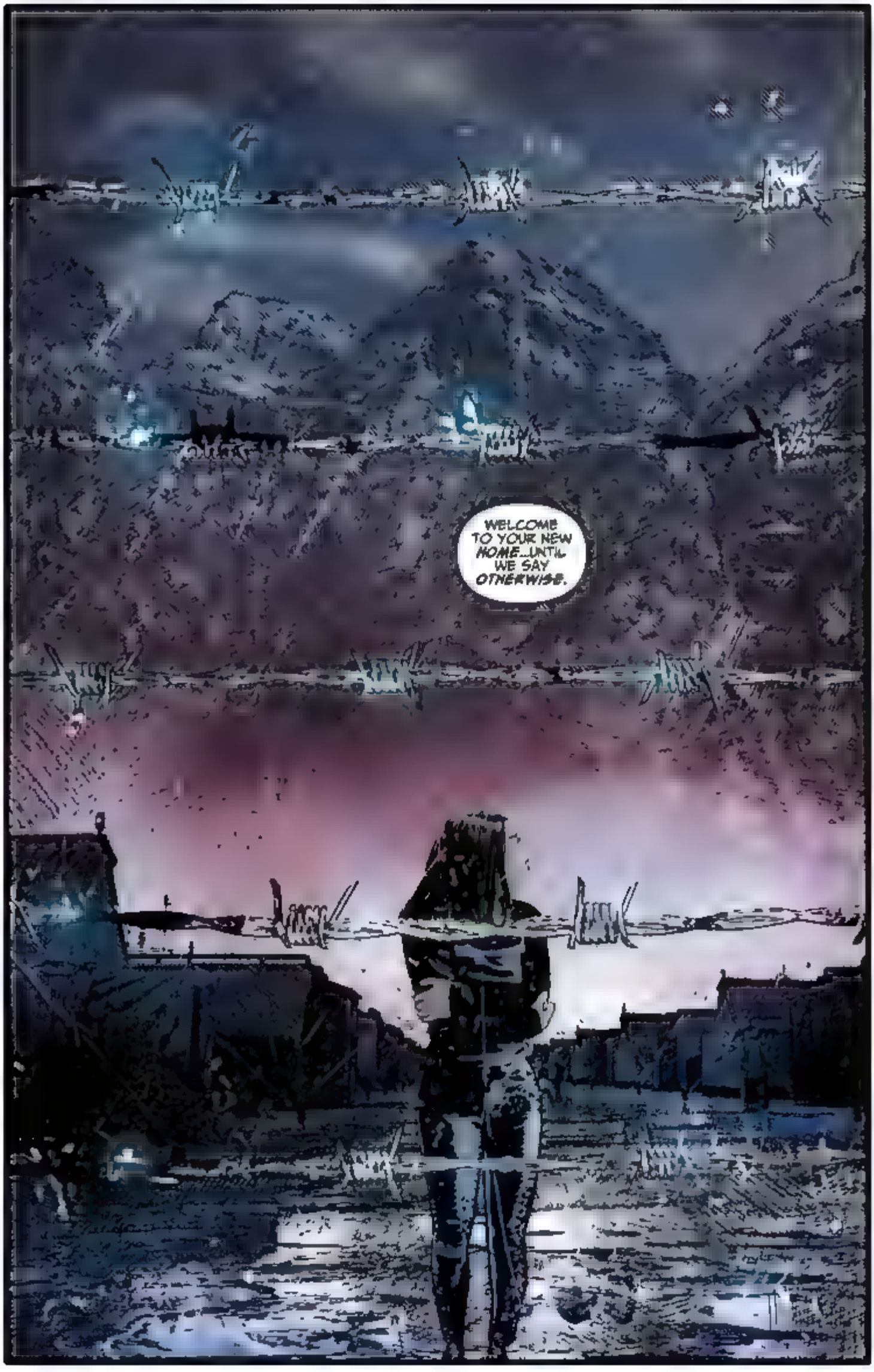
*PANELS 1-3 AFTER CHO1

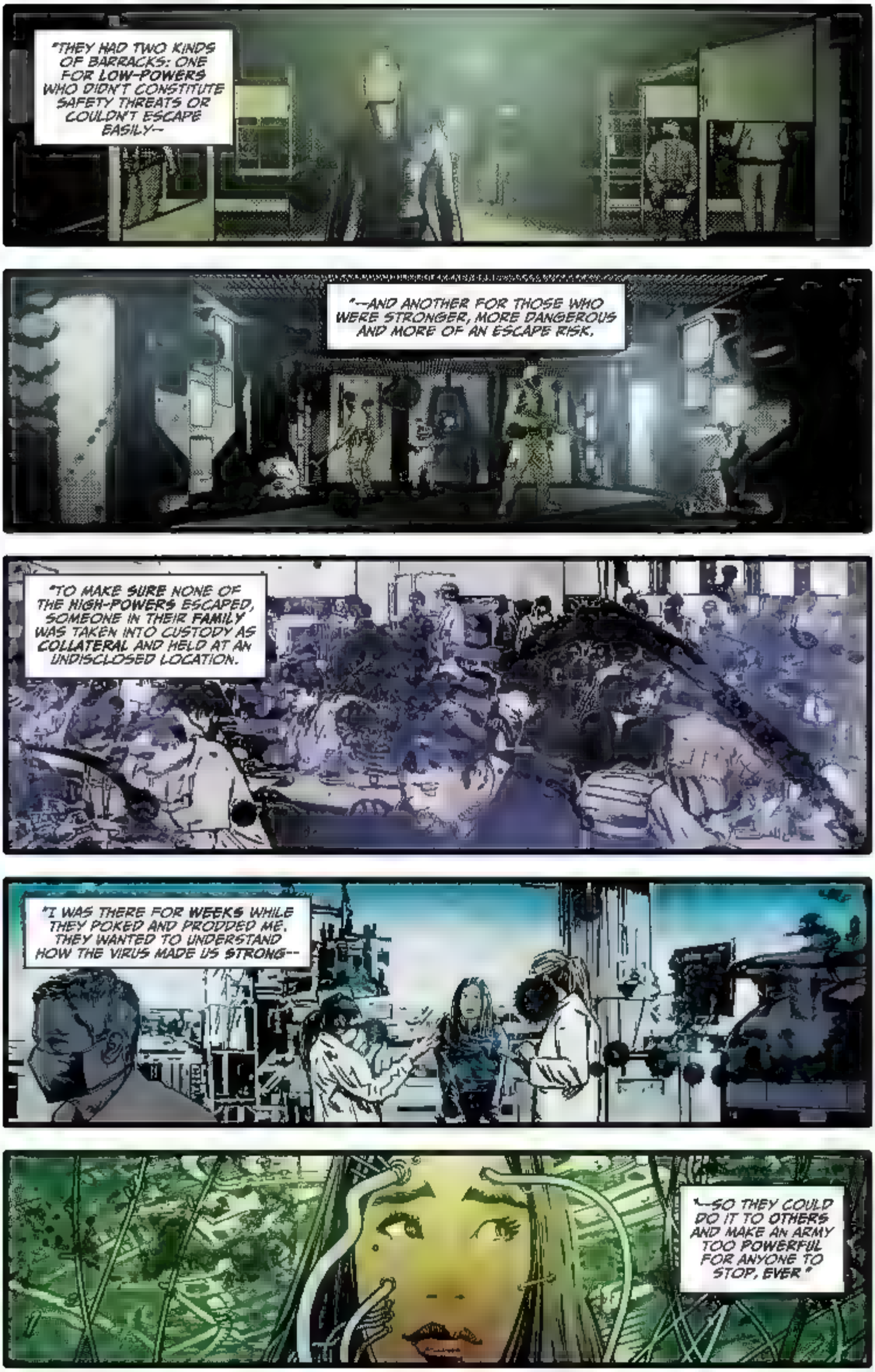

THOSE WITH FAMILIES, OBLIGATIONS AND PROMISES TO KEEP WERE THE EASIEST TO HERD.
IF YOU COME WITH US, AND WORK FOR US, THEN WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH YOU, OR WITH YOUR FAMILY FOR HELPING TO HIDE YOU.
IF YOU DECLINE, WELL...YOU CAN FLY OUT OF HERE, BUT THEY CAN'T BET THEY CAN'T OUTRUN A BULLET, EITHER.
BUT WHEN IT CAME TO THOSE WHO HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AND NO ONE TO WORRY ABOUT...WHO HAD ALREADY RECONCILED THEMSELVES TO AN EARLY DEATH...THE SITUATION WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT.
JUST COME WITH US...WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HURT YOU.
GOOD TO KNOW.

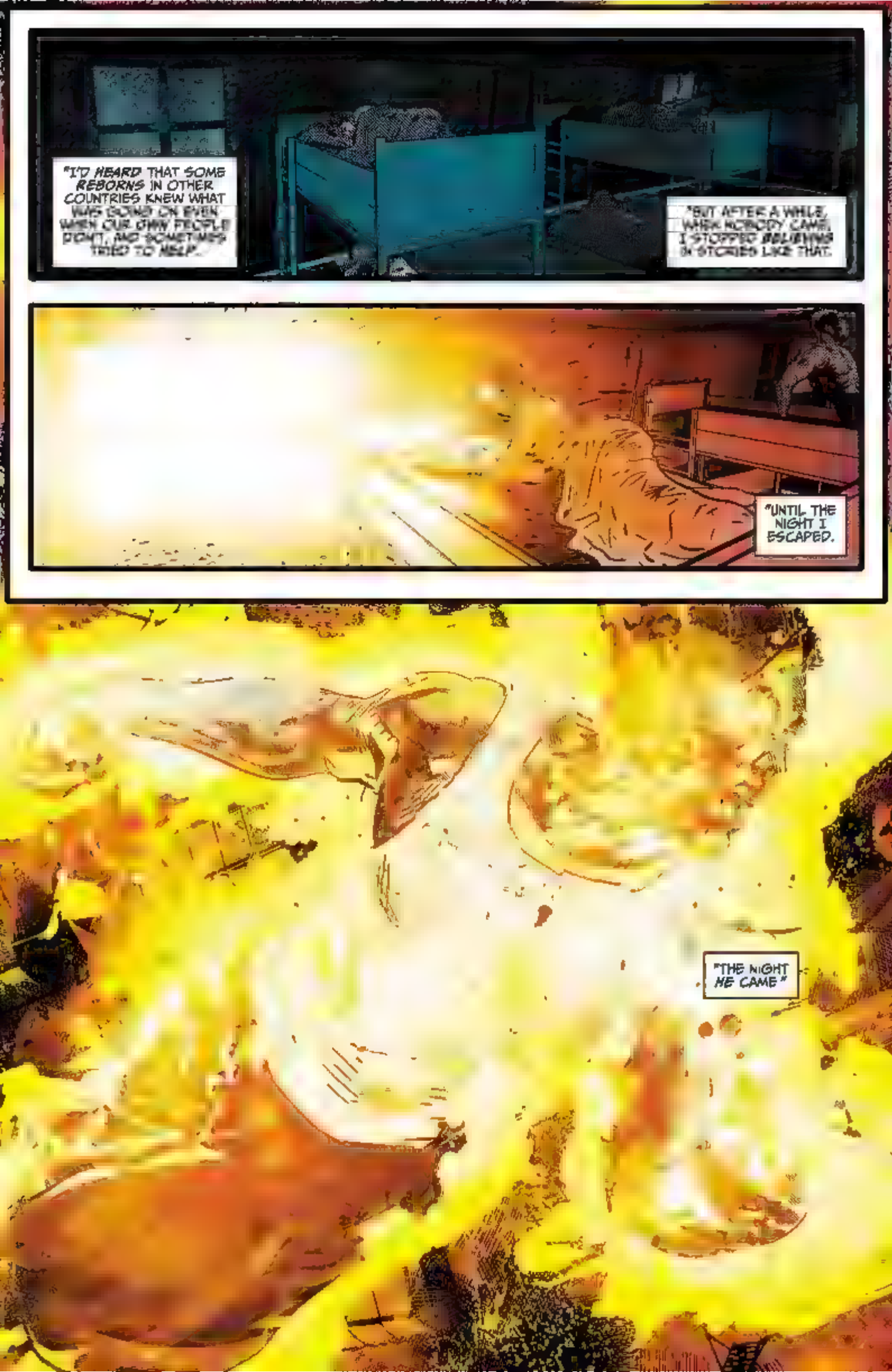
FOR ALL THE OTHER POWERS OUT THERE WHO HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF PUTTING THEIR NAMES AND FACES INTO THE FOOD CHAIN THAT IS THE INTERNET, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME--
--AND WAITING.
YOU IN ROOM 1-B, COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP! YOU HAVE THIRTY SECONDS!
ON THE GROUND! RIGHT! NOW!
NO--
--YOU GET ON THE GROUND.
RIGHT...
...NOW.
"IT'S JUST NO FUN ANYMORE, AIDEN."


I KNOW. THEY DON'T EVEN PUT UP A FIGHT WHEN WE SHOW UP.
DIDN'T HELP 'EM THE *LAST* TIME.
OR THE TIME BEFORE *THAT*, MIA.
AS LONG AS WE KEEP GETTING SOLID *INTEL* FROM OUR *FRIENDS* ABOUT WHO'S COMING IN NEXT, WE'LL BE GOOD.
SPEAKING OF...YOU HAVEN'T SAID MUCH SINCE WE BROUGHT YOU IN.
YEAH, WHAT'S YOUR STORY, TIA? LIKE ETHAN SAID BEFORE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE *AFRAID* ANYMORE YOU'RE WITH FRIENDS NOW.
I'M NOT AFRAID FOR *ME*--
--I'M AFRAID FOR WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO *YOU* IF I TELL YOU MY STORY.
WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE YOU MIGHT WANT TO *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU, TIA. YOU JUST TELL YOUR TRUTH, AND WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT FROM THERE *TOGETHER*. FAIR DEAL?
I SUPPOSE.
BUT YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE IT.


"MY FAMILY WAS LUCKY BECAUSE THEY MISSED GETTING THE VIRUS.
"I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT SICK AND CAME OUT THE OTHER SIDE--
"--CHANGED
"NOTHING CAN HURT ME BUT AS FAR AS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TELL, THAT'S THE ONLY POWER I GOT, AND THERE'S NOT A LOT OF CALL FOR THAT IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.
"SINCE IT NEVER DID ME ANY GOOD I FIGURED THE GOVERNMENT WOULDN'T MUCH CARE ABOUT ME HAVING A POWER.
TIA, NO!
"I WAS WRONG.
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION...WE THINK THE VIRUS MIGHT STILL BE ACTIVE IN HER. WE'RE JUST BRINGING HER IN FOR OBSERVATION.
"TOOK ALMOST TWO DAYS TO GET WHERE THEY WERE TAKING US."
OKAY EVERYBODY, LAST STOP


WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME...UNTIL WE SAY OTHERWISE.


"THEY HAD TWO KINDS OF BARRACKS: ONE FOR LOW-POWERS WHO DIDN'T CONSTITUTE SAFETY THREATS OR COULDN'T ESCAPE EASILY--
"--AND ANOTHER FOR THOSE WHO WERE STRONGER, MORE DANGEROUS AND MORE OF AN ESCAPE RISK.
"TO MAKE SURE NONE OF THE HIGH-POWERS ESCAPED, SOMEONE IN THEIR FAMILY WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AS COLLATERAL AND HELD AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
"I WAS THERE FOR WEEKS WHILE THEY POKED AND PRODDED ME. THEY WANTED TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE VIRUS MADE US STRONG--
"--SO THEY COULD DO IT TO OTHERS AND MAKE AN ARMY TOO POWERFUL FOR ANYONE TO STOP, EVER."


"I'D HEARD THAT SOME REBORNS IN OTHER COUNTRIES KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON EVEN WHEN OUR OWN PEOPLE DIDN'T, AND SOMETIMES TRIED TO HELP.
"BUT AFTER A WHILE, WHEN NOBODY CAME, I STOPPED BELIEVING IN STORIES LIKE THAT.
"UNTIL THE NIGHT I ESCAPED.
"THE NIGHT HE CAME"

"I HEARD LATER THAT HE WAS FROM NORTH KOREA.
"THAT HIS NAME WAS GEUN KIM AND HE WAS A HERO OF THE PEOPLE FIGHTING AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF THEIR GOVERNMENT.
"I GUESS HE DECIDED TO BRANCH OUT TO FIGHT IT ANYWHERE.
"EVEN HERE."

THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN, WHO CHOOSE TO, GO!
THAT WAY, HURRY!
I WILL HOLD THEM OFF WHILE YOU--
HELP ME!
"I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I STOPPED, AND LOOKED BACK."
PLEASE, HELP--
--ME!

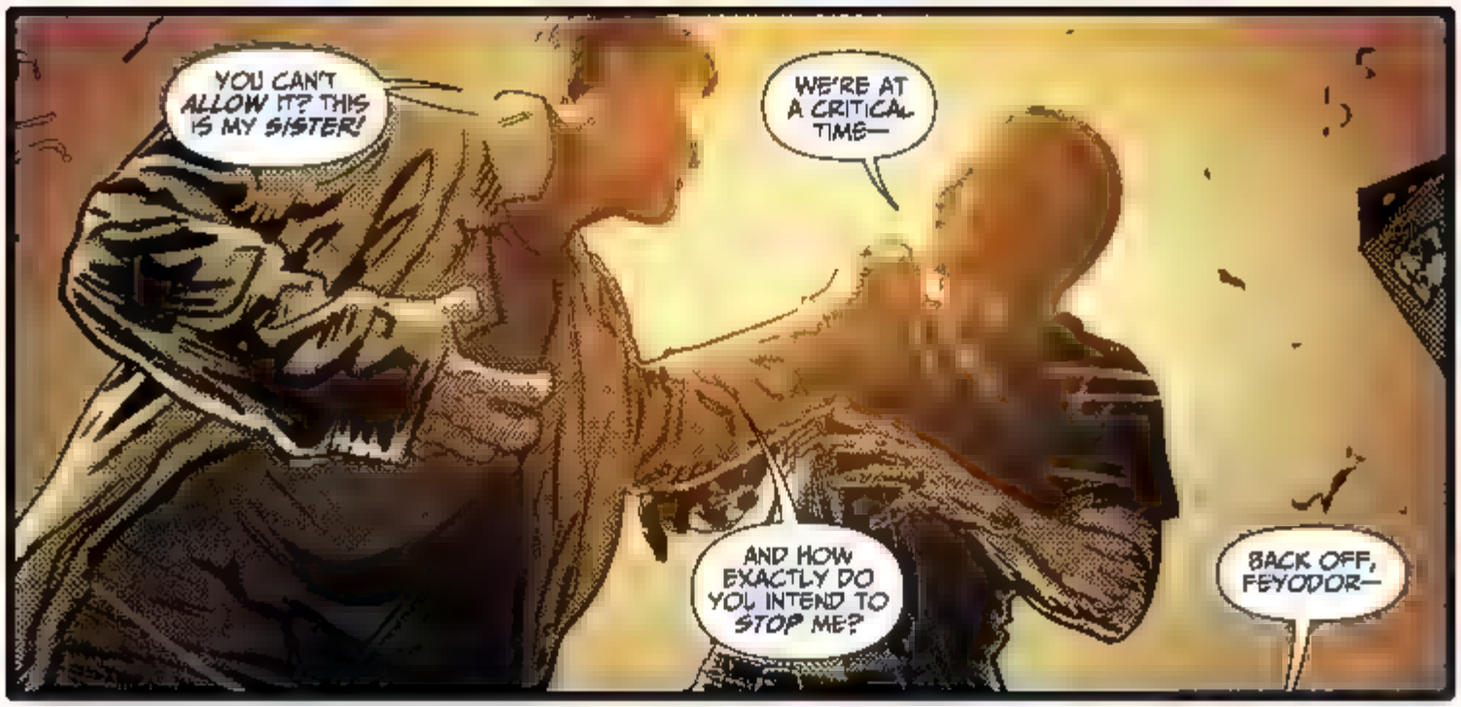
NO! STAY BACK! IT IS DANGEROUS TO GET TOO CLOSE TO—
—TO—
MY POWERS... SHUTTING DOWN...
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
NOT YOUR COUNTRY.
NOT YOUR PROBLEM.
THIS WAS A MISTAKE.

GAE-SAE-KK!~~
"AND I RAN, AND I RAN, AND I RAN~~"

--UNTIL I GOT HERE. BECAUSE WORD ON THE STREET_IS THAT THANKS TO BLOCK PARTY, THESE STREETS...
...ARE SAFE FOR US.
CAN THEY DO THAT, MIA? JUST PUT PEOPLE IN CAMPS?
YOU HEARD WHAT SHE SAID--
I KNOW, BUT...CAN THEY DO THAT?
THEY DID IT BEFORE.
REMEMBER THE JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS?
YEAH, BUT THERE WAS A WAR ON--
THIS IS A WAR, JAMAL, AND LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE IN IT.
YOU'RE MISSING THE BIG PICTURE, NOAH.
THERE'S A BIGGER PICTURE?
AN UNANSWERED QUESTION. DID THOSE SOLDIERS COME AFTER HER SAME AS THE OTHERS, JUST FOR WHO SHE IS--
--OR WERE THEY COMING AFTER HER BECAUSE OF WHERE SHE WAS...AND WHAT SHE SAW?
'CAUSE IF IT'S THE SECOND ONE, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS.

TIA?
I DON'T KNOW...I DON'T THINK THEY TRACKED ME BUT I'M NOT SURE.
THEN JUST TO BE SAFE, I THINK WE NEED TO ASSUME THE WORST.
ETHAN'S RIGHT. SOUNDS LIKE WHOEVER TOOK OUT THE GUY FROM KOREA IS OUR REAL PROBLEM.
HE WAS SCARY SO SCARY...
IF THIS IS A WAR, THEN WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEIR NEXT MOVE IS. WE NEED INTELLIGENCE.
BEEN SAYING THAT ABOUT YOU AND ETHAN SINCE WE WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL.
GUESS SOMEBODY NEEDS TO GET HASBURG ON THE LINE.
WHO'S HASBURG?
"WHERE'S HASBURG?"

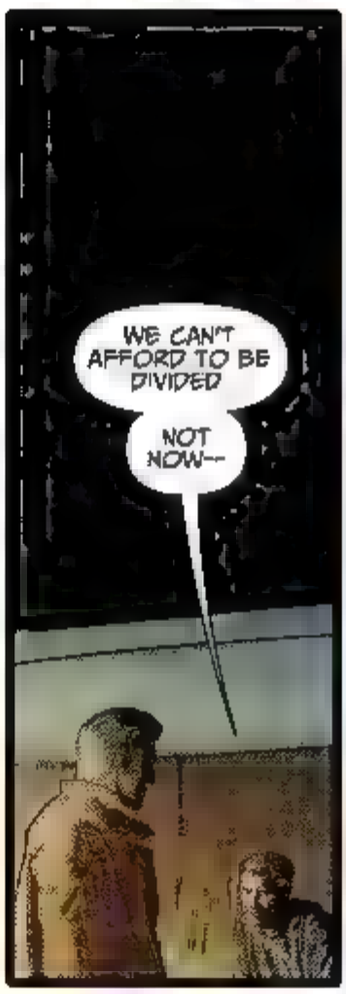
IN THE SMALLEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE.
THE CLOSET?
FLUSSH
..OH.
SOMETHING WRONG, FEYODOR?
YES, "SOMETHING'S WRONG," HASBURG. LIKE YOU GIVE A CRAP.
WHOA, WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?
WHILE WE HAVE BEEN BABYSITTING YOU, WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN HIDING HERE ALL SAFE, I HAVE LOST TRACK OF MY SISTER.
WHEN DID THIS--
THE LAST FEW DAYS.
WE SET UP A SYSTEM WHERE SHE WOULD PING ME FROM DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS IN RUSSIA, JUST TO LET ME KNOW SHE WAS STILL ALIVE.
BUT I HAVE HEARD NOTHING IN DAYS. I'M AFRAID THEY HAVE HER--
SHE COULD BE LYING LOW FOR SOME REASON. YOU DON'T KNOW THEY HAVE HER--
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GO BACK.
NO, I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.

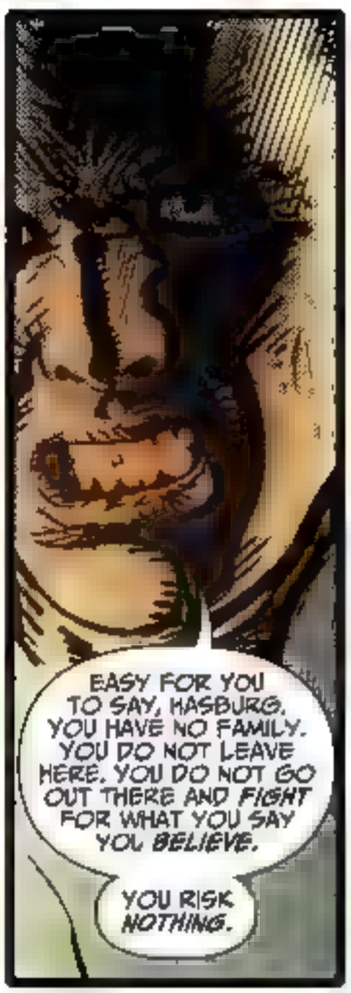

YOU CAN'T ALLOW IT? THIS IS MY SISTER!
WE'RE AT A CRITICAL TIME—
AND HOW EXACTLY DO YOU INTEND TO STOP ME?
BACK OFF, FEYODOR—

—AND LET HIM GO. RIGHT. NOW.
FINE.

UNNHF!

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT THIS COULD BE A TRAP TO LURE YOU BACK? IF THEY FOUND OUT SHE WAS IN CONTACT WITH YOU THEY MIGHT'VE SHUT DOWN HER ACCOUNTS OR DIVERTED THE TEXTS—
I CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE.


WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE DIVIDED
NOT NOW—


EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, HASBURG. YOU HAVE NO FAMILY. YOU DO NOT LEAVE HERE. YOU DO NOT GO OUT THERE AND FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU SAY YOU BELIEVE.
YOU RISK NOTHING.

I CANNOT DO AS YOU DO. CANNOT LIVE IN FEAR. SHE IS ALL I HAVE.

I CAN GO AFTER HIM AND--
NO. LET HIM GO. BETTER TO HAVE HIM LEAVE THAN KEEP FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES.
WHAT HE SAID ABOUT YOU...HE WAS WRONG, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

BREEEP-BREEP
I WISH I DID. BUT I DON'T.
HE MAY NOT BE WRONG.

DID YOU WANT TO--
YOU GET IT, SANDY. I THINK I NEED TO GO LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE.
BREEEP-BREEP

HELLO? OH, HI, JAMAL. WHAT'S UP?

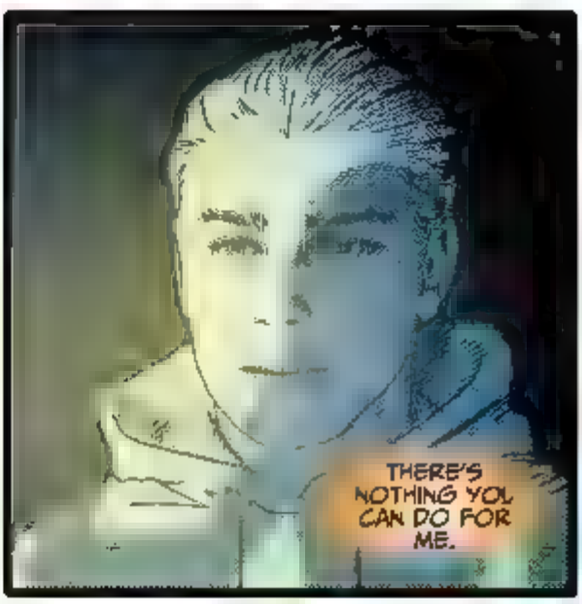
HE'S...NOT AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT. CAN I SEND JAMES OVER?
YOU KNEW THIS DAY WAS GONNA COME SOONER OR LATER.
SO LET'S GET IT DONE.

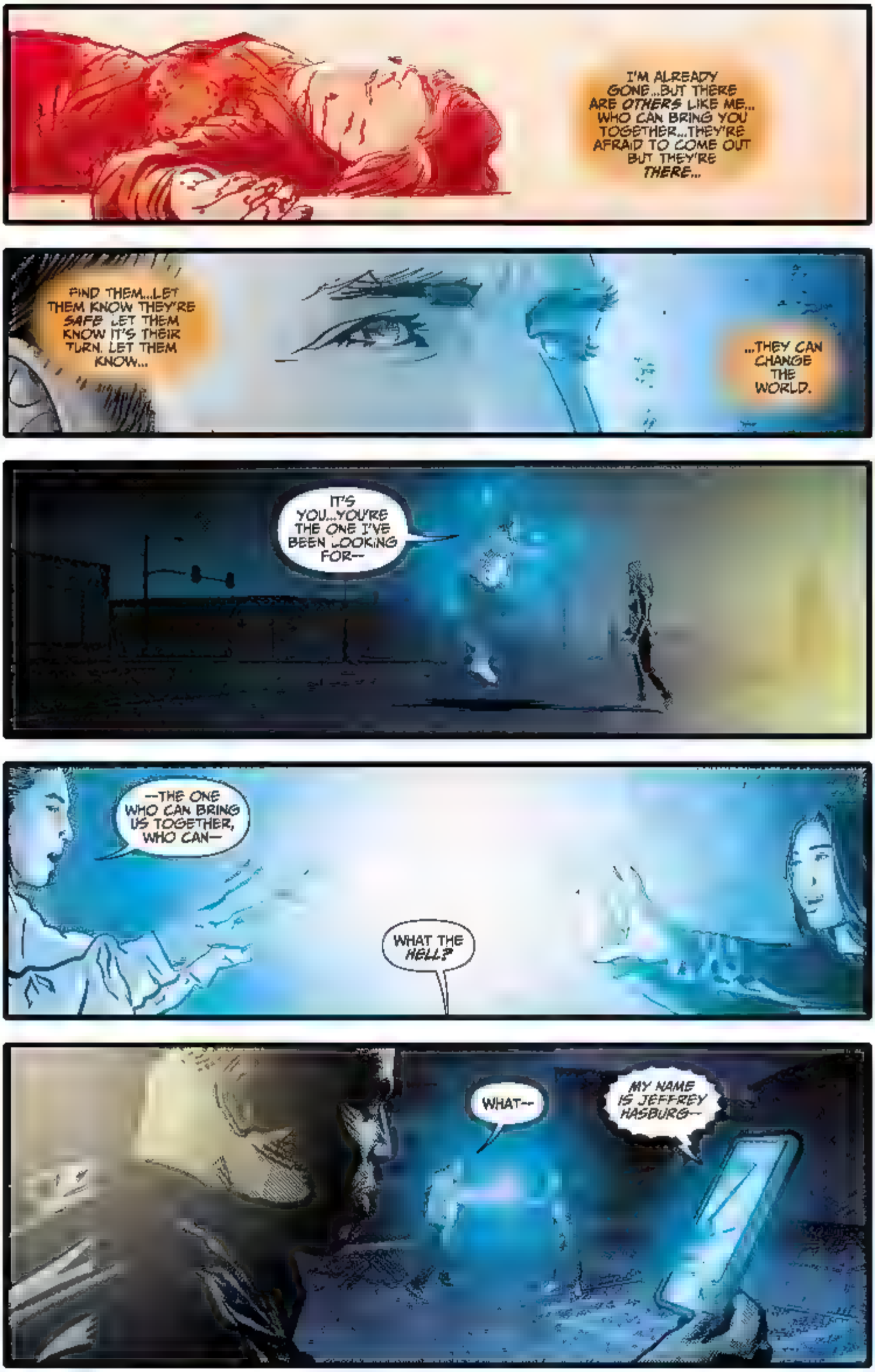
SO WHERE'S YOUR BOSS?

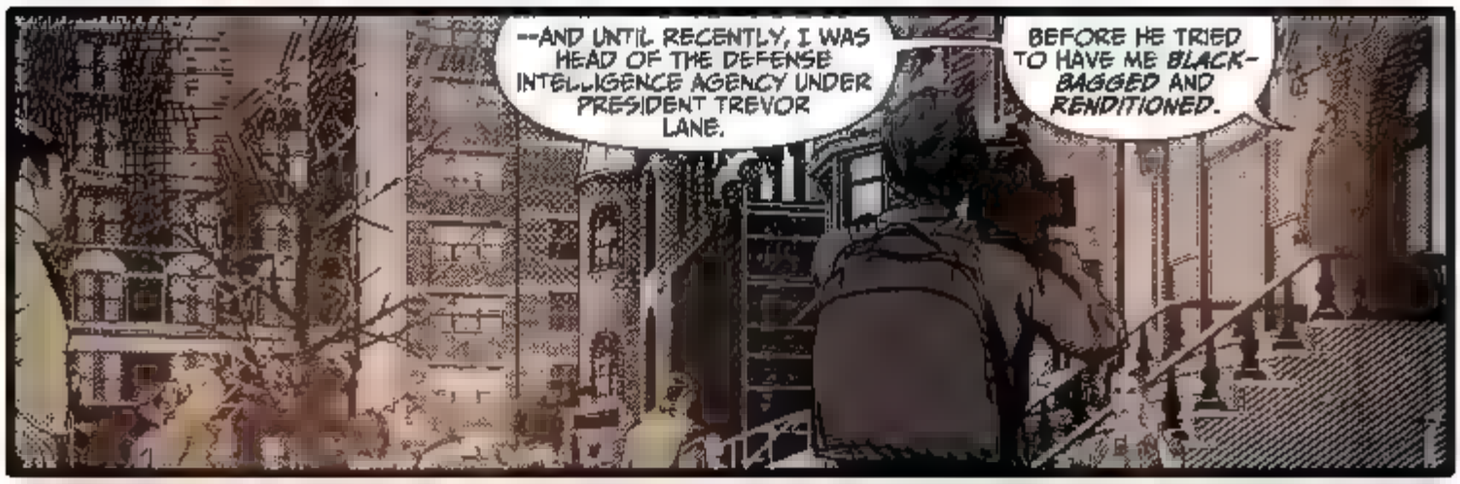
HASBURG'S NOT MY BOSS.
NOT MY PROBLEM. YOU CALLED US, REMEMBER?
ACTS LIKE YOUR BOSS.
WE NEED HIS RESOURCES. MUSCLE, WE'VE GOT.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

YEAH, TIA, WE'RE GOOD.
OKAY, I--

--I--

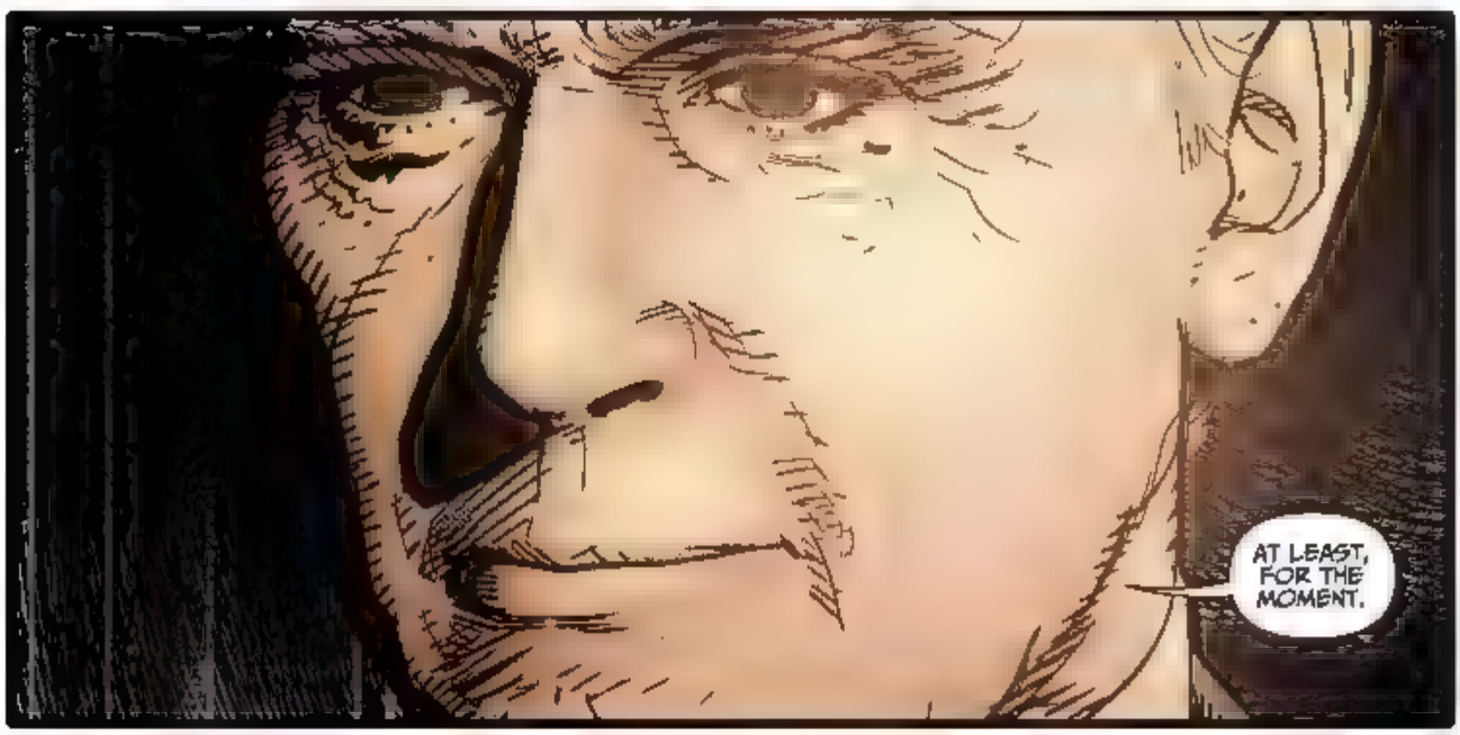

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME.

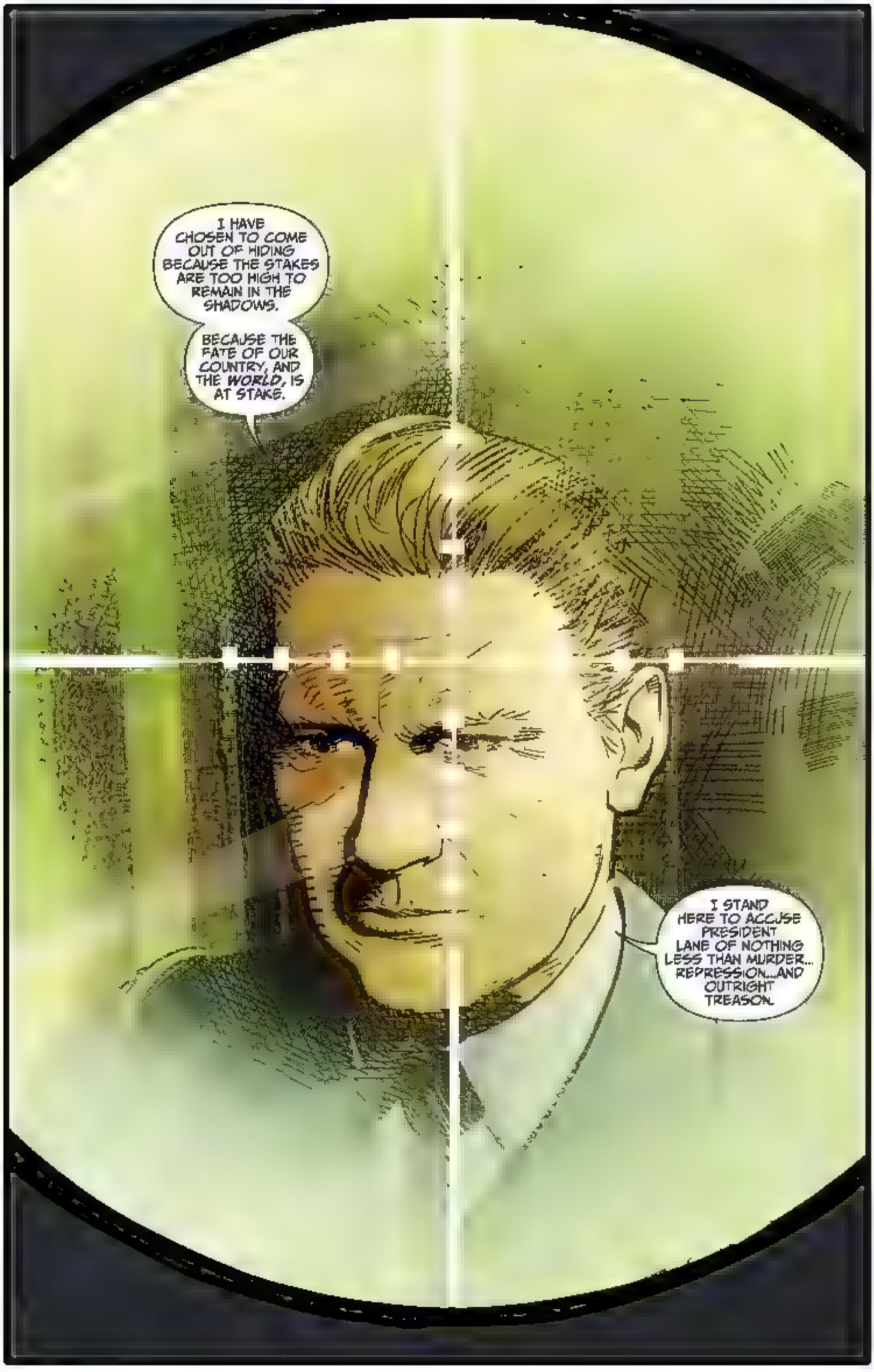

I'M ALREADY GONE...BUT THERE ARE *OTHERS* LIKE ME... WHO CAN BRING YOU TOGETHER...THEY'RE AFRAID TO COME OUT BUT THEY'RE *THERE*...
FIND THEM...LET THEM KNOW THEY'RE *SAFE*. LET THEM KNOW IT'S THEIR TURN. LET THEM KNOW...
...THEY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.
IT'S YOU...YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR--
--THE ONE WHO CAN BRING US TOGETHER, WHO CAN--
WHAT THE *HELL*?
WHAT--
*MY NAME IS JEFFREY HASBURG--*

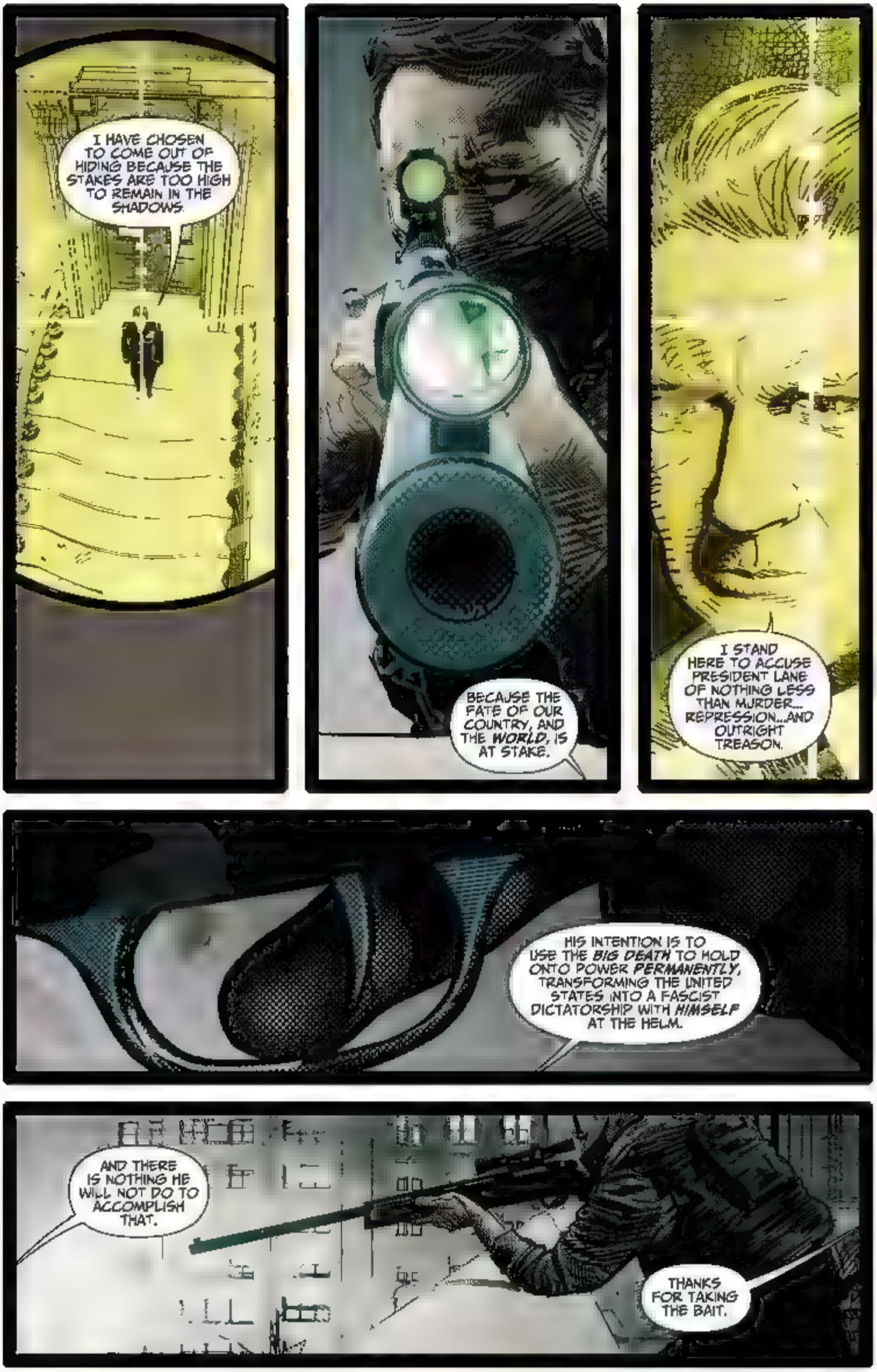

--AND UNTIL RECENTLY, I WAS HEAD OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY UNDER PRESIDENT TREVOR LANE.
BEFORE HE TRIED TO HAVE ME *BLACK-BAGGED* AND *RENDITIONED*.

HE DID THIS BECAUSE I DISAGREED WITH THE STEPS HE WAS UNDERTAKING TO CONTROL THE *REBORNS* AMONG US...STEPS THAT I BELIEVED, AND STILL BELIEVE, CONSTITUTED *FASCISM*.
THE REBORNS *SAVED* MY LIFE, AND PRESIDENT LANE TRIED TO BLAME THEM FOR *ASSASSINATING* ME.

BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I AM VERY MUCH *ALIVE*.


AT LEAST, FOR THE MOMENT.


I HAVE CHOSEN TO COME OUT OF HIDING BECAUSE THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH TO REMAIN IN THE SHADOWS.
BECAUSE THE FATE OF OUR COUNTRY, AND THE *WORLD*, IS AT STAKE.
I STAND HERE TO ACCUSE PRESIDENT LANE OF NOTHING LESS THAN MURDER... REPRESSION...AND OUTRIGHT TREASON.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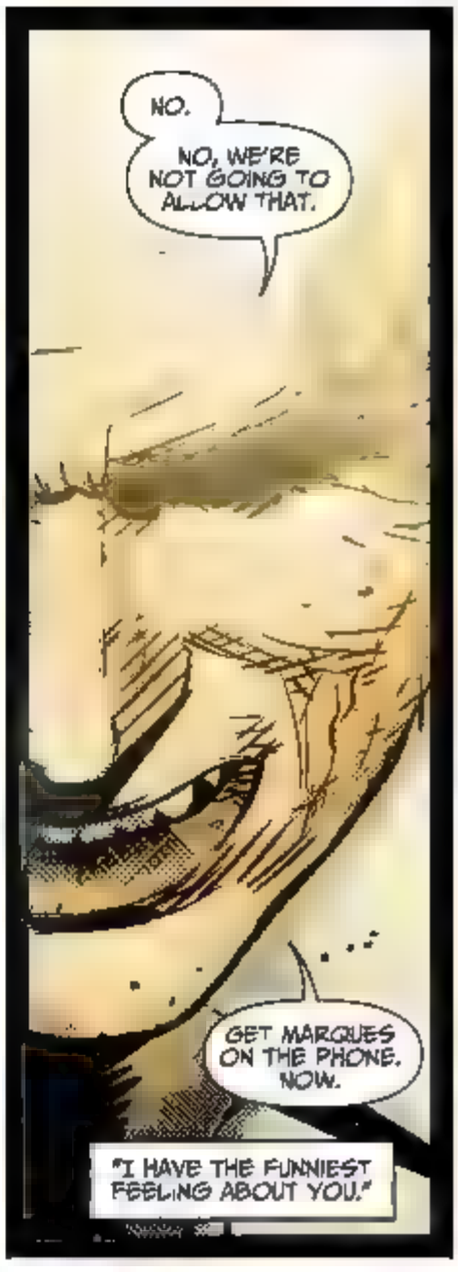
BECAUSE THE FATE OF OUR COUNTRY, AND THE *WORLD*, IS AT STAKE.
I STAND HERE TO ACCUSE PRESIDENT LANE OF NOTHING LESS THAN MURDER... REPRESSION...AND OUTRIGHT TREASON.
HIS INTENTION IS TO USE THE *BIG DEATH* TO HOLD ONTO POWER *PERMANENTLY*, TRANSFORMING THE UNITED STATES INTO A FASCIST DICTATORSHIP WITH *HIMSELF* AT THE HELM.
AND THERE IS NOTHING HE WILL NOT DO TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.
THANKS FOR TAKING THE BAIT.

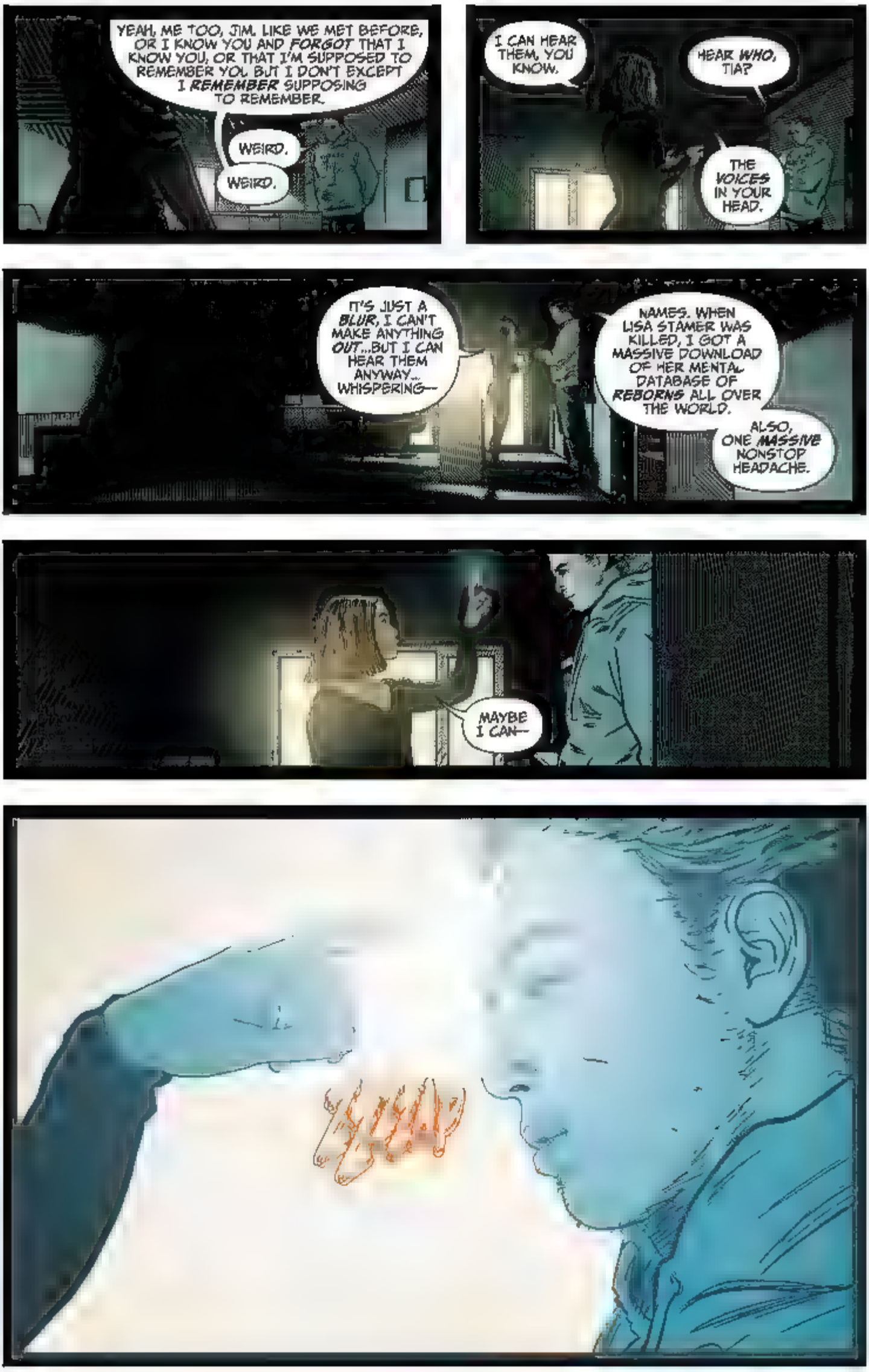
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE NEEDING THIS.
WHAM
YEAH, I GOT HIM. OF COURSE I GOT HIM. TELL HASBURG TO STAND BY--
"--I'M FLYING IN."
WHEN I RESIGNED IN PROTEST AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES OF VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION, HE HAD ME KIDNAPPED AND BLACK-BAGGED. I WOULD HAVE BEEN RENDITIONED OR WORSE IF NOT FOR THE INTERCESSION OF--

THANKS, SANDY--
--REBORNS, INCLUDING LISA STAMER, WHO WAS MURDERED AT THE ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT JUST AS THIS MAN WAS SENT TODAY--
--TO ASSASSINATE ME BEFORE I COULD FINISH TELLING YOU THE TRUTH, A MURDER THEY WOULD HAVE BLAMED ON THE REBORNS AS JUSTIFICATION TO CRACK DOWN EVEN FURTHER.
WHEN WE'RE DONE HERE, WE WILL HAND HIM OVER TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BECAUSE THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED BY CORRUPT APPOINTMENTS AND CAN NO LONGER BE TRUSTED.

PRESIDENT LANE HAS BEEN USING FEAR ABOUT THE REBORNS TO PUT THEM UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A COVERT DIVISION THAT IS ANSWERABLE ONLY TO HIM, NOT TO THE STANDARD MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND.

I AM PREPARED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO BACK UP THESE CHARGES, AND I ASK THAT CONGRESS BEGIN PROCEEDINGS TO ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THIS MATERIAL TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.
THIS INFORMATION WILL, I BELIEVE, RESULT IN THE IMPEACHMENT, CONVICTION AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF PRESIDENT TREVOR LANE.


NO.
NO, WE'RE NOT GOING TO ALLOW THAT.
GET MARQUES ON THE PHONE. NOW.
"I HAVE THE FUNNIEST FEELING ABOUT YOU."


YEAH, ME TOO, JIM. LIKE WE MET BEFORE, OR I KNOW YOU AND FORGOT THAT I KNOW YOU, OR THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER YOU. BUT I DON'T EXCEPT I REMEMBER SUPPOSING TO REMEMBER.
WEIRD.
WEIRD.
I CAN HEAR THEM, YOU KNOW.
HEAR WHO, TIA?
THE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD.
IT'S JUST A BLUR, I CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING OUT...BUT I CAN HEAR THEM ANYWAY... WHISPERING—
NAMES. WHEN LISA STAMER WAS KILLED, I GOT A MASSIVE DOWNLOAD OF HER MENTAL DATABASE OF REBORNS ALL OVER THE WORLD.
ALSO, ONE MASSIVE NONSTOP HEADACHE.
MAYBE I CAN—

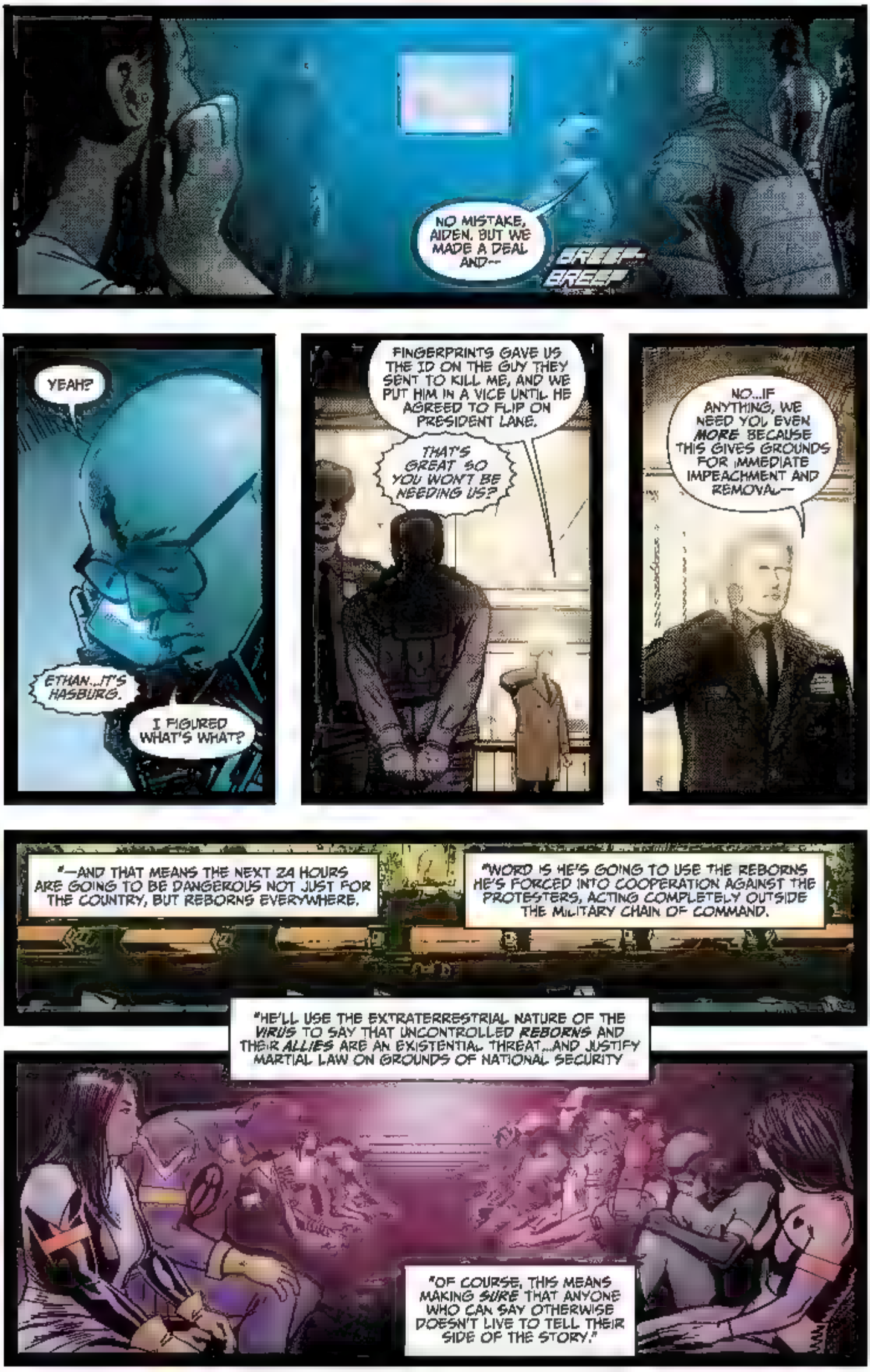
SHIV

WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?
I...DON'T KNOW, BUT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DO THAT AGAIN.
YEAH, NO, ME EITHER, I--

YEAH?
JAMES, IT'S FEYODOR...YOU SHOULD KNOW, AND TELL THE REST--

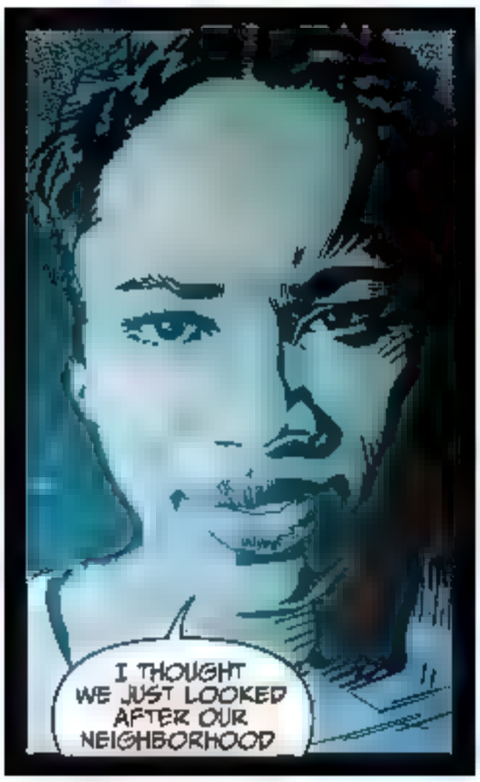
--TONS OF PROTESTERS ARE GATHERING OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE LOOKS LIKE THE BALLOON'S GOING UP. YOU SHOULD GET HERE. SOON.
"I'M SORRY, MR. PRESIDENT, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO AT THIS TIME."

GODDAMNIT, GENERAL--
THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PUT IN PLACE AFTER *PRIOR* ADMINISTRATIONS ABUSED THE MILITARY TO ASSAULT PEACEFUL PROTESTS PRECLUDE US FROM--
--I GAVE YOU AN ORDER--
AN *ILLEGAL* ORDER. WHICH I MUST DECLINE TO FOLLOW AS LONG AS THE PROTESTERS REMAIN PEACEFUL.
YOU ARE WITHIN YOUR RIGHTS TO FIRE ME OR ASK FOR MY RESIGNATION, AS YOU DID WITH MY SUPERIORS, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT WHOEVER STEPS IN BEHIND ME WILL DO THE SAME.
THEN GET OUT.
I TOLD YOU THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR IT.
HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL IN THE HUMAN HEART.
DO YOU THINK THERE ARE *REBORNS* IN THE CROWD, MARQUES?
WITHOUT QUESTION.
AND YOUR TEAMS CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM?
YES, SIR. TEAM ONE IS FOR DISTRACTION AND COLLATERAL DAMAGE...TAKE DOWN THE *LOW-POWERS* AND CLEAR THE DECK FOR TEAM *TWO*—
--THE *HOME TEAM.*
AND THAT'S WHEN THE *REAL* FUN BEGINS. AMIRIGHT?
YES. JIM.
GOD
"LOOKS LIKE A GODDAMN BIG MESS IF YOU ASK ME."


NO MISTAKE, AIDEN. BUT WE MADE A DEAL AND--
BREEP-BREEP
YEAH?
ETHAN...IT'S HASBURG.
I FIGURED WHAT'S WHAT?
FINGERPRINTS GAVE US THE ID ON THE GUY THEY SENT TO KILL ME, AND WE PUT HIM IN A VICE UNTIL HE AGREED TO FLIP ON PRESIDENT LANE.
THAT'S GREAT SO YOU WON'T BE NEEDING US?
NO...IF ANYTHING, WE NEED YOU EVEN *MORE* BECAUSE THIS GIVES GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL--
"--AND THAT MEANS THE NEXT 24 HOURS ARE GOING TO BE DANGEROUS NOT JUST FOR THE COUNTRY, BUT REBORNS EVERYWHERE.
"WORD IS HE'S GOING TO USE THE REBORNS HE'S FORCED INTO COOPERATION AGAINST THE PROTESTERS, ACTING COMPLETELY OUTSIDE THE MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND.
"HE'LL USE THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL NATURE OF THE *VIRUS* TO SAY THAT UNCONTROLLED *REBORNS* AND THEIR *ALLIES* ARE AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT...AND JUSTIFY MARTIAL LAW ON GROUNDS OF NATIONAL SECURITY
"OF COURSE, THIS MEANS MAKING *SURE* THAT ANYONE WHO CAN SAY OTHERWISE DOESN'T LIVE TO TELL THEIR SIDE OF THE STORY."

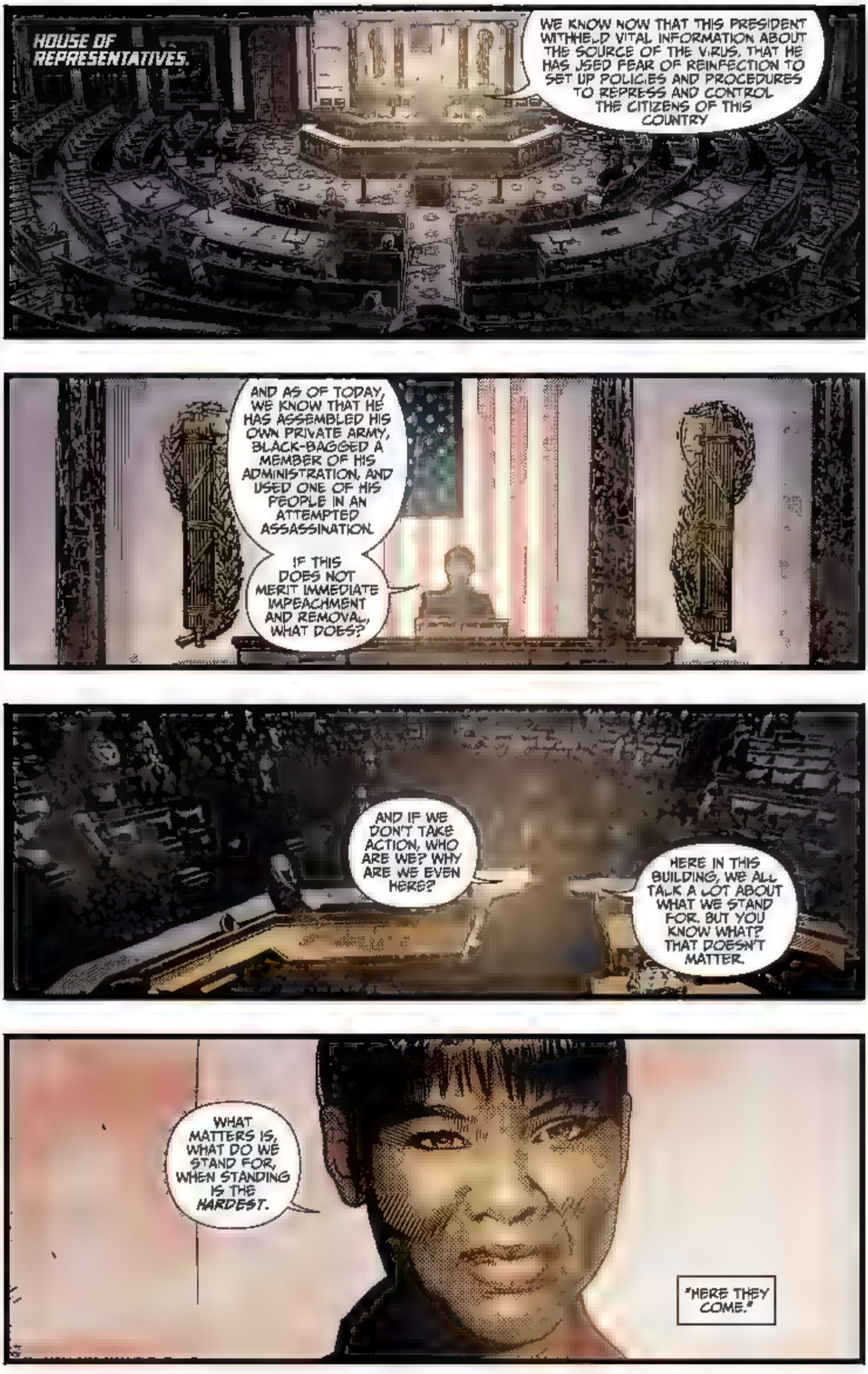
THEY'RE GOING TO BE UNLEASHED ON THE PEACEFUL PROTESTERS OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE AT ANY TIME. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET TO PROTECT THEM AND KEEP THE GOVERNMENT MOVING WHILE CONGRESS DECIDES WHAT TO DO.
CAN I COUNT ON *BLOCK PARTY* TO BE THERE?

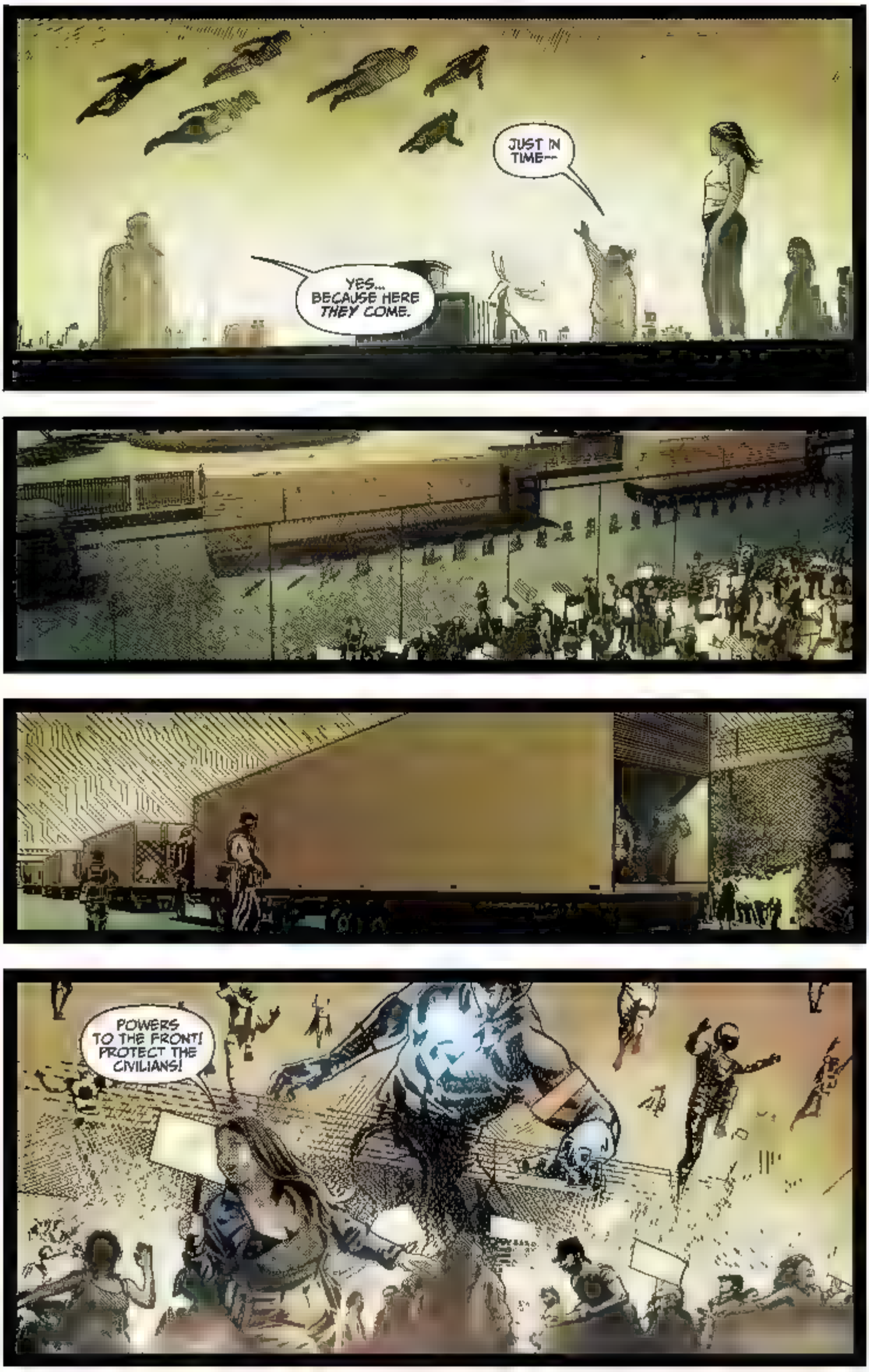
YEAH. WE'RE ON OUR WAY.


I THOUGHT WE JUST LOOKED AFTER OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

WE DO, MIA.
BUT WE'RE ALL IN THIS NOW. IF THE COUNTRY FALLS AND GOES FULL-FASCIST, THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S NOT GONNA SURVIVE IT.

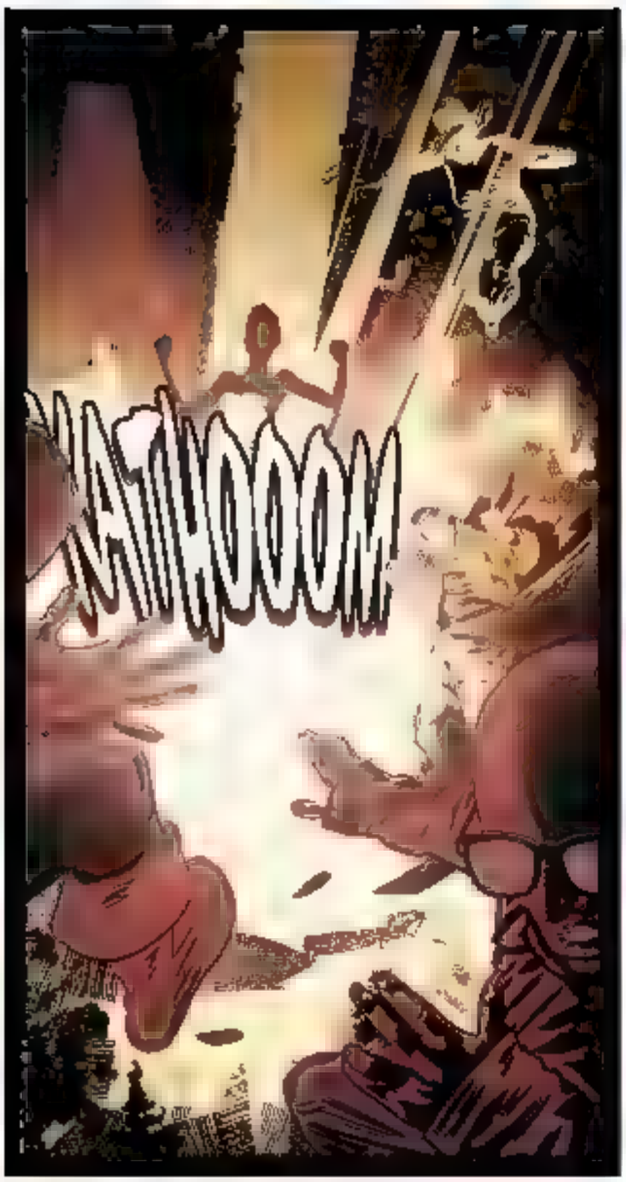
THE COUNTRY *IS* THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
"THE COUNTRY ITSELF IS AT RISK."


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
WE KNOW NOW THAT THIS PRESIDENT WITHHELD VITAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOURCE OF THE VIRUS, THAT HE HAS USED FEAR OF REINFECTION TO SET UP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO REPRESS AND CONTROL THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY
AND AS OF TODAY, WE KNOW THAT HE HAS ASSEMBLED HIS OWN PRIVATE ARMY, BLACK-BAGGED A MEMBER OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, AND USED ONE OF HIS PEOPLE IN AN ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.
IF THIS DOES NOT MERIT IMMEDIATE IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL, WHAT DOES?
AND IF WE DON'T TAKE ACTION, WHO ARE WE? WHY ARE WE EVEN HERE?
HERE IN THIS BUILDING, WE ALL TALK A LOT ABOUT WHAT WE STAND FOR. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
WHAT MATTERS IS, WHAT DO WE STAND FOR, WHEN STANDING IS THE HARDEST.
"HERE THEY COME."


JUST IN TIME--
YES... BECAUSE HERE THEY COME.
POWERS TO THE FRONT! PROTECT THE CIVILIANS!

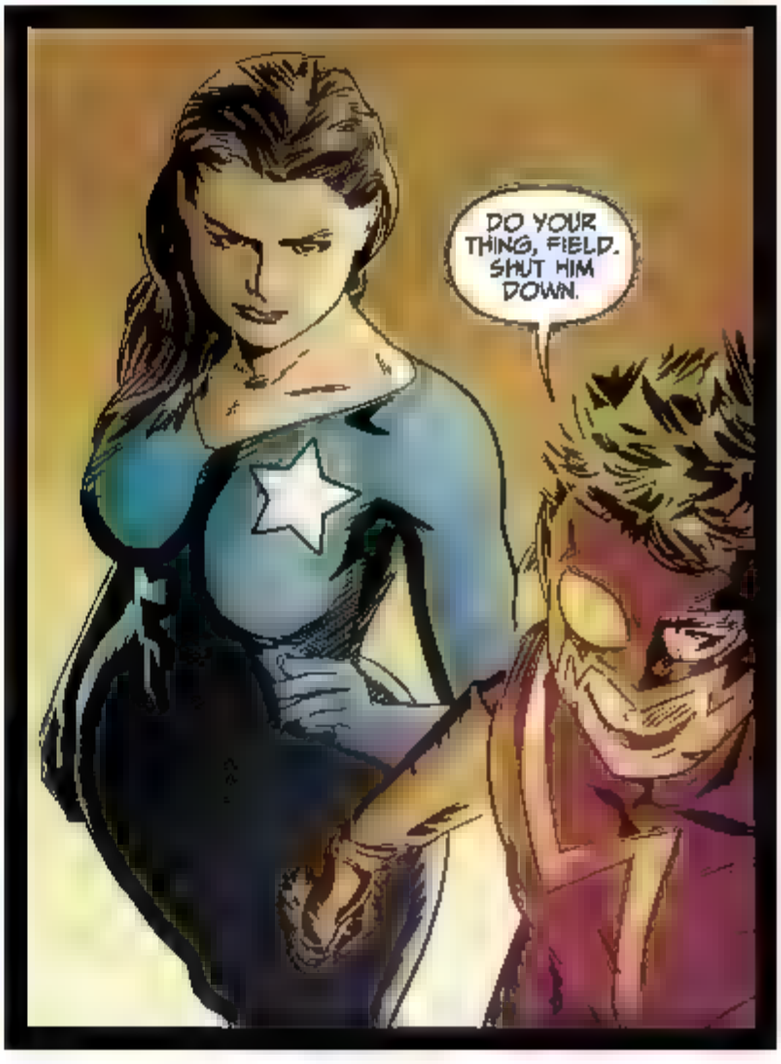
OKAY, LET'S DO THIS!
STAY HERE WHERE IT'S SAFE, TIA, EMPATHY WON'T HELP YOU IN A FIGHT—
WAIT THERE'S—
—I THINK... I *FEEL* THAT THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT WE'RE MISSING.
NOW?
NOT YET... WE WANT TO SEE WHO THEIR *BIG GUNS* ARE... DON'T WANT TO WASTE OUR TIME.
LIKE MY MOTHER SAID, "DON'T FIGHT THE RABBITS, THE LIONS WILL GET YOU."
TRUE. EXCEPT IN THIS CASE—
—*WE'RE* THE LIONS.
AND *THOSE* ARE THE ONES WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

THIS THE BEST THEY CAN DO?
THEY'VE BEEN DRAFTED, THEY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT--
THEN WHY DON'T THEY GO THE FREAK HOME--
MAYBE THEY CAN'T.
NOT A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR. NOT MY PROBLEM, WE--
INCOMING!


KATHOOM

OUR TURN.

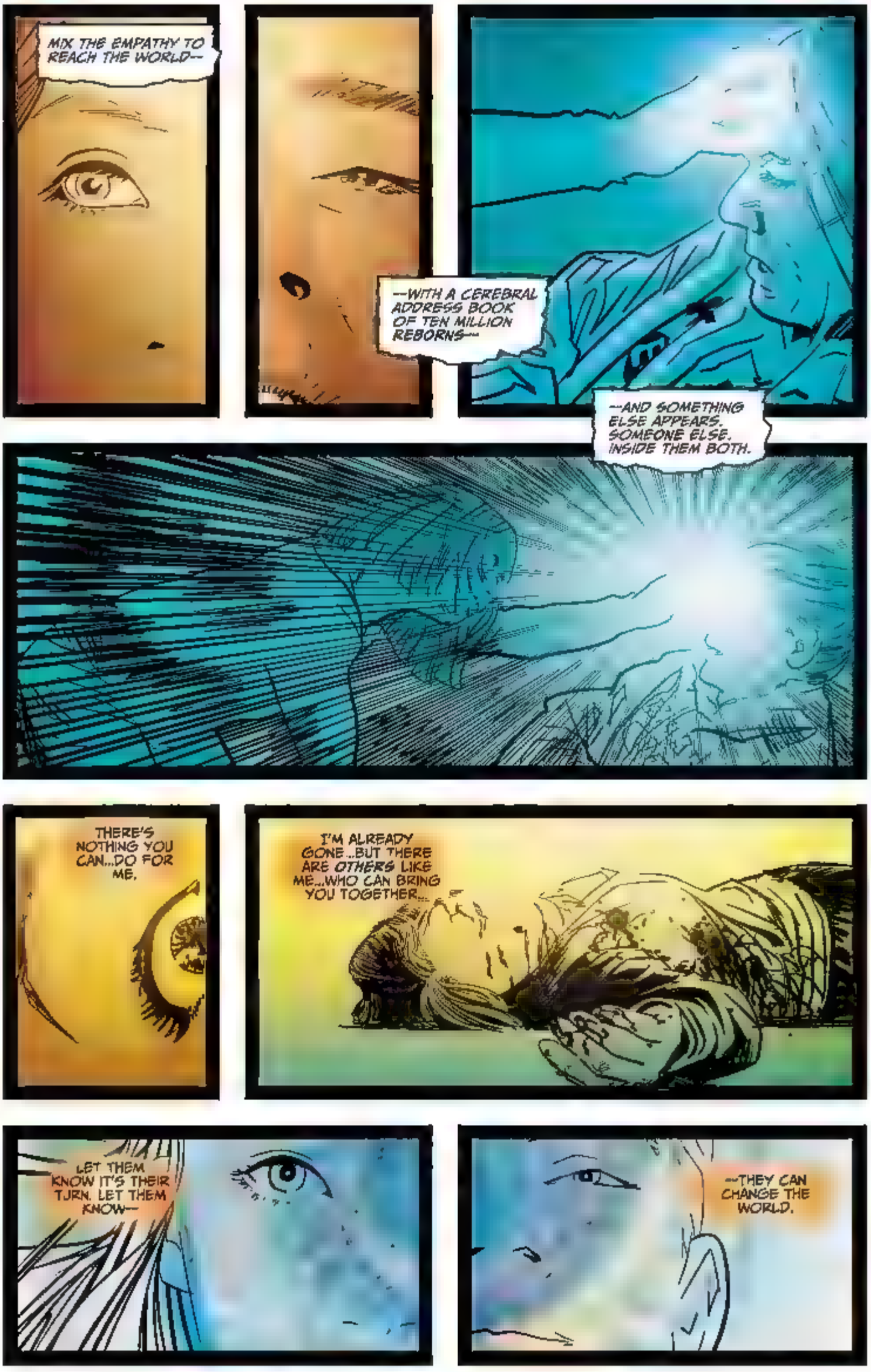
NOT IMPRESSED.

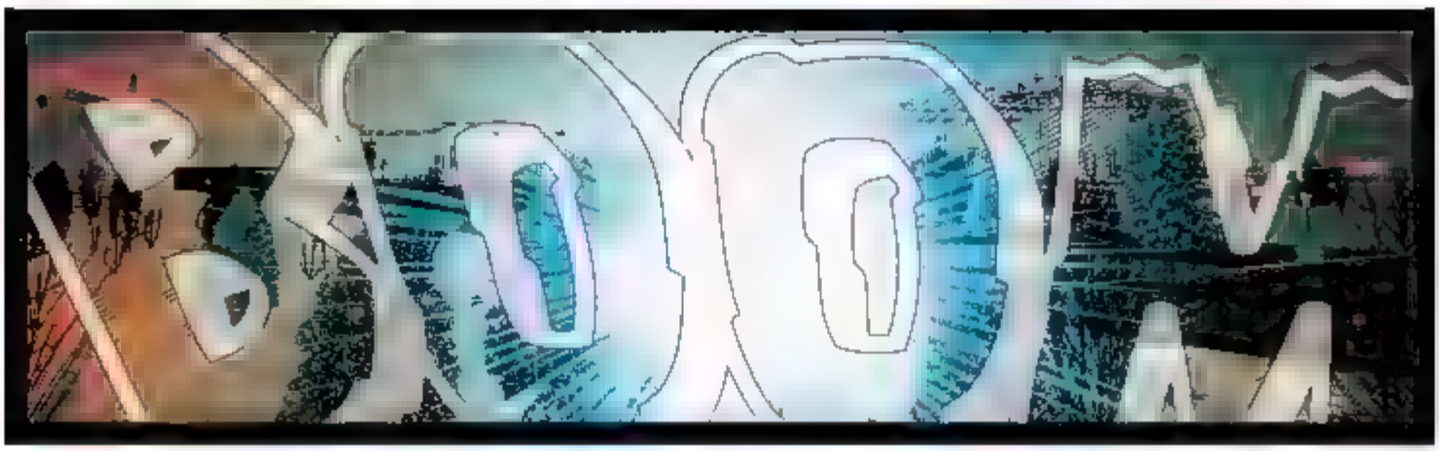

DO YOUR THING, FIELD. SHUT HIM DOWN.

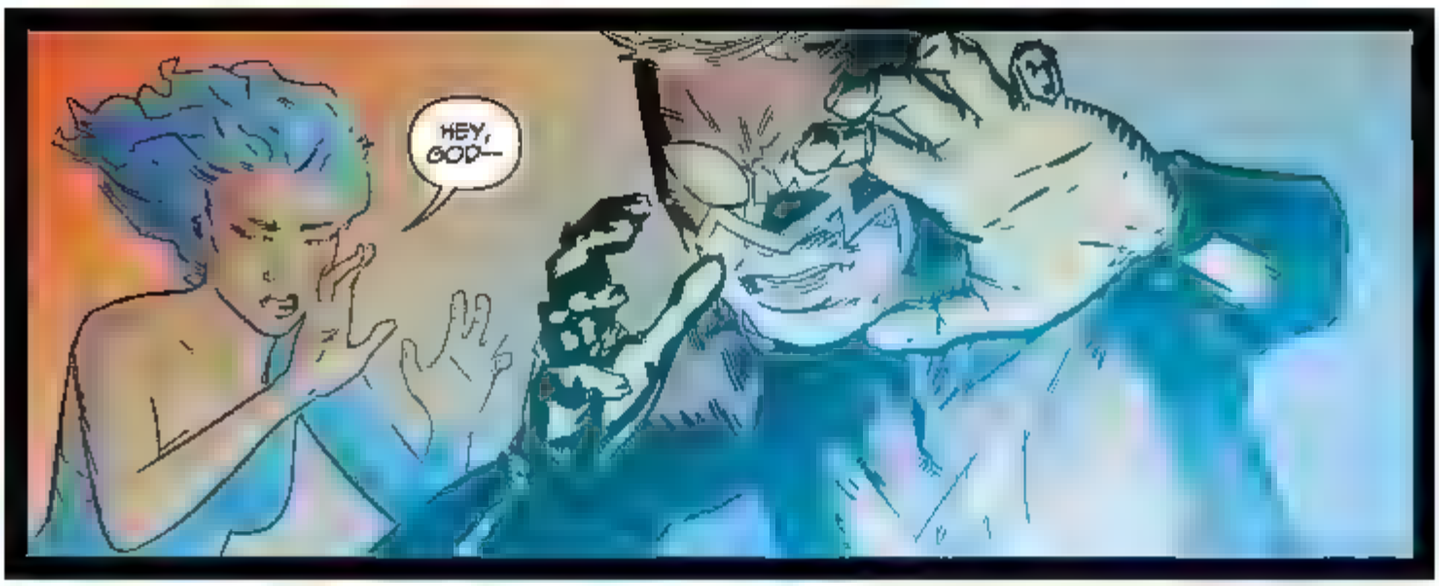
UNNNH!
MY POWERS... GONE...WHAT HAPPENED...?
AAAGHH!
WE DID.
CRACKK
JAMES!

WHAMMMM
BACK OFF!
SONOFABITCH!
OH, GOOD... SOMEONE WITH GUTS.
LET'S HAVE A LOOK.
--HUUHHH--
MIA!

JAMES--
NO.. GO BACK TOO DANGEROUS--
IT'S--
--ALL--
--FALLING--
--APART.


MIX THE EMPATHY TO REACH THE WORLD--
--WITH A CEREBRAL ADDRESS BOOK OF TEN MILLION REBORNS--
--AND SOMETHING ELSE APPEARS. SOMEONE ELSE. INSIDE THEM BOTH.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN...DO FOR ME.
I'M ALREADY GONE...BUT THERE ARE *OTHERS* LIKE ME...WHO CAN BRING YOU TOGETHER...
LET THEM KNOW IT'S THEIR TJRN. LET THEM KNOW--
--THEY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

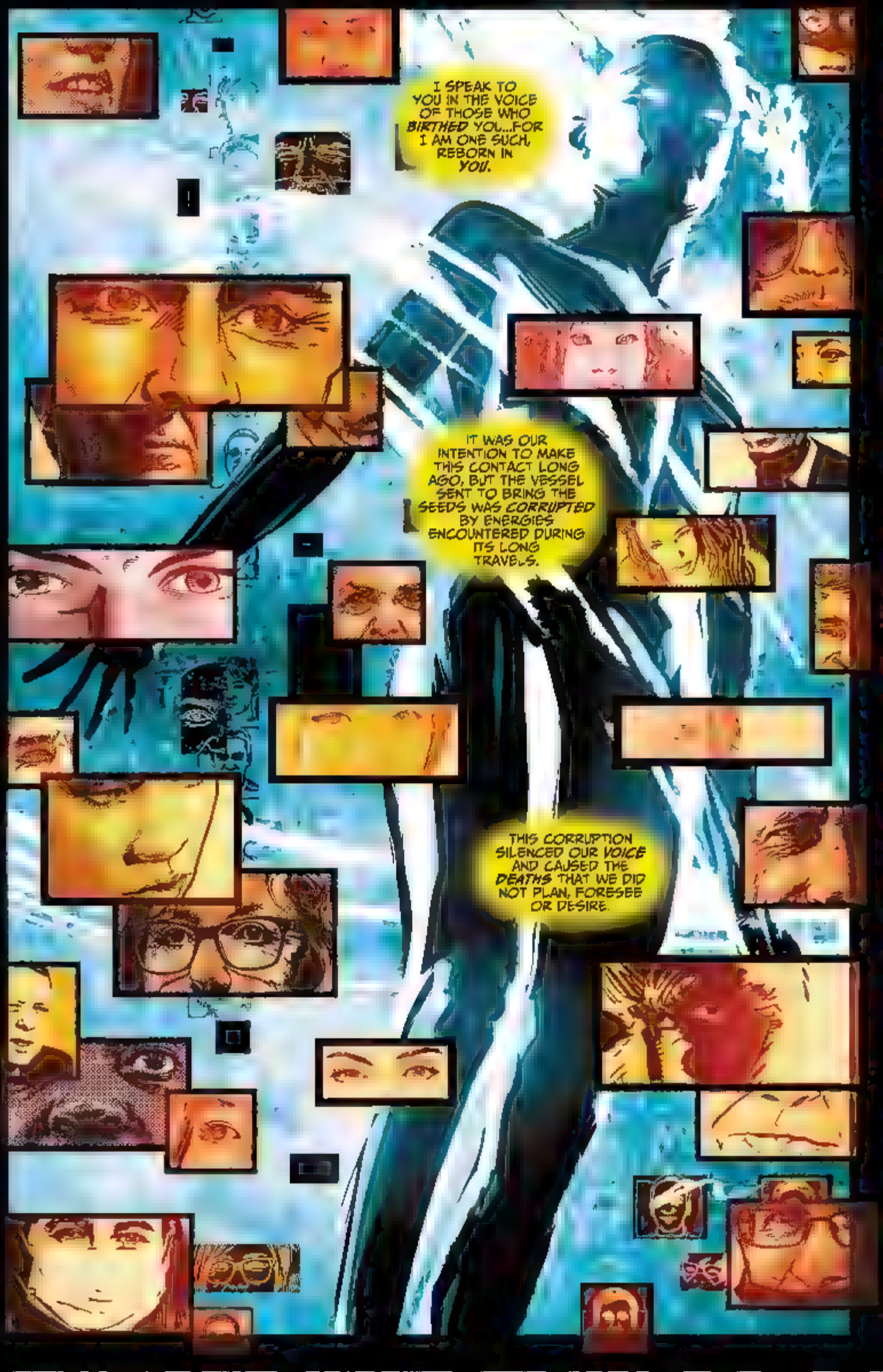

BOOM


HEY, GOD--

--LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST GOT SOME COMPETITION FOR THE JOB.

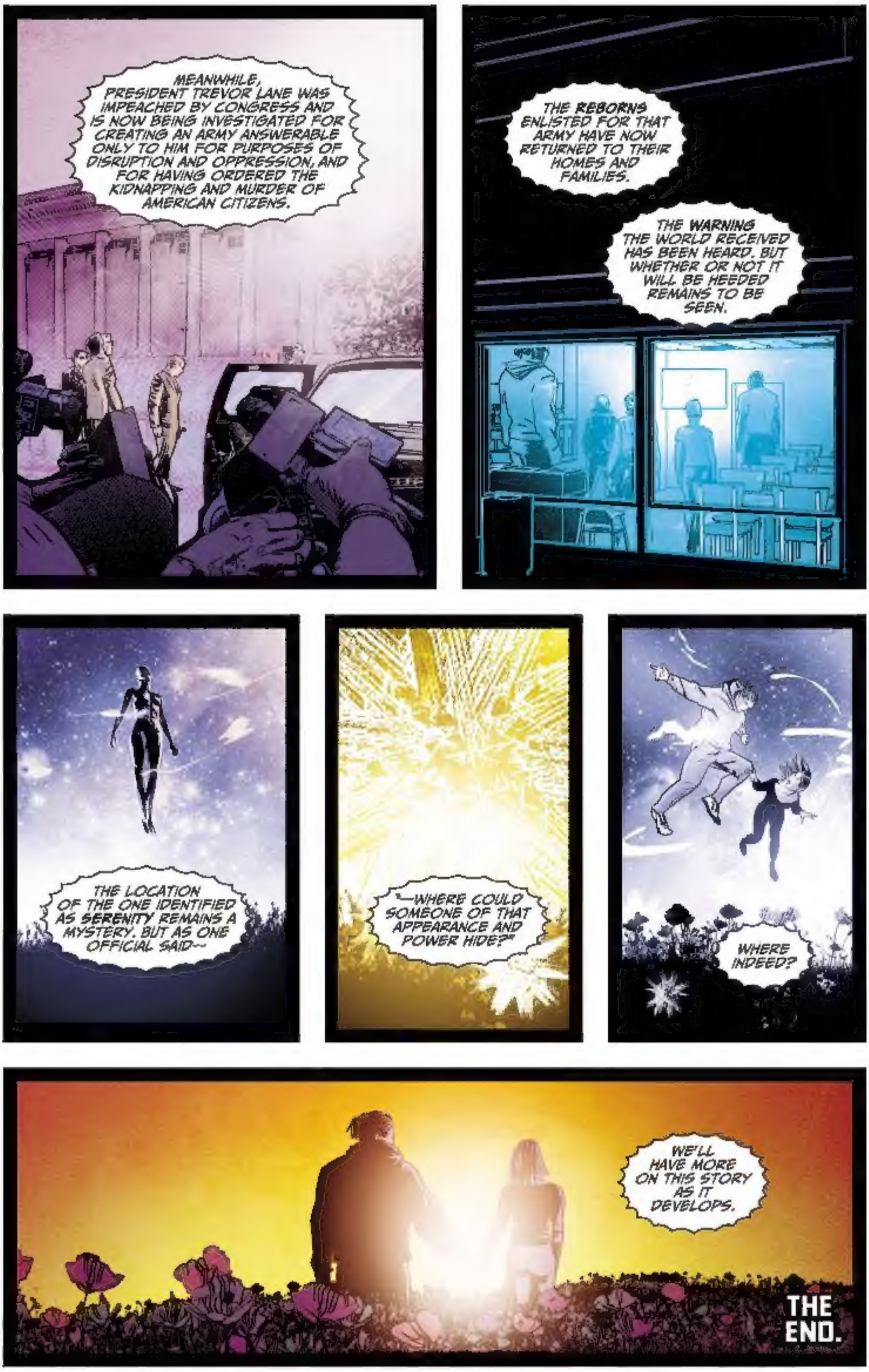
I AM *SERENITY*. THIS IS WHO I AM.
AND *THIS* IS NOT WHO *YOU* ARE. THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU WERE *REBORN* FOR. THIS IS NOT THE WAY.
YEAH, WELL IT'S *MY* WAY OR THE--
YOU ARE ALL *ONE*. THIS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. *YOU* WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.
NO?

BACK OFF OR I SNAP HIM IN TWO.
NO...
--HE'S ONE OF US... THIS IS NOT WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO--
SHUT UP, FIELD, OR--
NO.
THERE IS NO OR.
NO...POWER'S GONE_I WON'T GO BACK TO WHAT I WAS--
AGGHHH!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S GONNA BE A PROBLEM.
LISTEN TO ME...ALL OF YOU--


I SPEAK TO YOU IN THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO *BIRTHED* YOU...FOR I AM ONE SUCH, REBORN IN *YOU.*
IT WAS OUR INTENTION TO MAKE THIS CONTACT LONG AGO, BUT THE VESSEL SENT TO BRING THE SEEDS WAS *CORRUPTED* BY ENERGIES ENCOUNTERED DURING ITS LONG TRAVELS.
THIS CORRUPTION SILENCED OUR *VOICE* AND CAUSED THE *DEATHS* THAT WE DID NOT PLAN, FORESEE OR DESIRE.

THE SYSTEM REQUIRED A COMPLETE GENETIC REBOOT TO STOP THE SICKNESS, AND THIS WAS DONE AT GREAT COST.
AND THE PROCESS OF ALLOWING US TO REACH YOU WAS ALSO BEGUN...ONLY TO BE INTERRUPTED BY CRUELTY AND FEAR.
WE COULD NOT FIND OUR VOICE UNTIL THIS MOMENT...WHEN WE CAME TOGETHER IN HOPE AND LOVE
THE WORLD FROM WHICH THIS GIFT COMES FROM, MY WORLD, WAS ALMOST LOST TO TYRANNY, GREED, AND THE LUST FOR POWER. WE SURVIVED ONLY AT THE LAST MOMENT, LEARNED OUR LESSON, AND CREATED THESE CARRIERS TO BRING THAT LESSON, AND THE STRENGTH TO ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS, TO OTHER WORLDS.
AND SO I SPEAK NOW TO YOU

THESE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW WORLD...YOUR CHILDREN AND OURS, AND WE WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO CONTROL, SUBVERT OR PERVERT THEIR GROWTH FOR YOUR BENEFIT, PROFIT OR EGO.
THEY MUST BE ALLOWED TO FIND THEIR OWN WAY, FOR GOOD OR FOR ILL.
ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS WE WILL NOT INTERFERE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR LAWS.
BUT IF YOU AGAIN ATTEMPT TO TURN THEM AGAINST EACH OTHER, OR USE THEM FOR PURPOSES OF WAR, WE AND THEY WILL STOP YOU—
--AND WE WILL NOT BE GENTLE.
THE POWER WAS REBORN IN THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE YOUNG ENOUGH TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF THAT POWER... AND TO BE FREE OF THE POISON OF THOSE WHO HAVE COME BEFORE YOU.
THE FATE OF THE WORLD, AND THE SHAPE THAT WORLD TAKES...IS IN YOUR HANDS. USE IT WELL. USE IT WISELY.
WE WILL BE WATCHING.
IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING WHAT SOME ARE NOW CALLING THE REBORN UPRISING, EVERY COUNTRY MET TO CONFER ABOUT WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN NEXT.


MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT TREVOR LANE WAS IMPEACHED BY CONGRESS AND IS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED FOR CREATING AN ARMY ANSWERABLE ONLY TO HIM FOR PURPOSES OF DISRUPTION AND OPPRESSION, AND FOR HAVING ORDERED THE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.
THE REBORNS ENLISTED FOR THAT ARMY HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES.
THE WARNING THE WORLD RECEIVED HAS BEEN HEARD. BUT WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE HEEDED REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
THE LOCATION OF THE ONE IDENTIFIED AS SERENITY REMAINS A MYSTERY. BUT AS ONE OFFICIAL SAID--
"--WHERE COULD SOMEONE OF THAT APPEARANCE AND POWER HIDE?"
WHERE INDEED?
WE'LL HAVE MORE ON THIS STORY AS IT DEVELOPS.
THE END.

# LETTERS FROM THE CREATORS OF THE RESISTANCE: UPRISING

J.Michael Straczynski

For decades, scientists have been trying to come up with a Unified Field Theory (also known as the Unified Theory of Everything) that would explain how the universe works. Key to this theory is the Standard Model of Particle Physics, which posits that the four essential components to the universe—a Strong Force, a Weak Force, Electromagnetics and Gravity—function under one as-yet undiscovered and unnamed Fifth Force.

Since quantum physics tells us that the observer affects the observed, that the particle is only a particle while you're looking at it, turning into a wave when you're not, I am inclined to think that this fifth force is Will. You can call it consciousness, or the creative impulse, but for simplicity, for the moment, call it Will.

Will affecting the universe is the only way to explain synchronicities, like when you're thinking of someone you haven't thought about or spoken to in years, and they choose that exact moment to call you on the phone. Or when, on a whim, you change the route you take while driving home each day and learn afterward that there was a massive accident along your usual route that would almost certainly have killed you.

Some say that synchronicities arise when we get on the frequency of the universe.

Others suggest that they happen when the universe gets on *your* frequency.

Either way, I think that these synchronicities, these artifacts of will, are the way the universe says *You're on the right path, keep going*.

Those synchronicities were on full display with volume one of *The Resistance* in its portrayal, written a year earlier, of a planetary pandemic and the ways in which governments chose—wisely or poorly—to confront the problem. That tradition continues with volume two, *The Resistance: Uprising*, in its examination of mass protests, electoral upheaval, and a president using the power of the Big Lie to form his own private army of followers—a story written well ahead of actual events.

I suppose that the moral of the story, suggested here without any conceivable self-interest, is that if you want to get an advance look at what's coming next for the world in all its glorious and ominous parts and pieces, you should subscribe to everything being published by Artists Writers and Artisans between now and the heat-death of the universe.

We will show you the way. We will protect you.

*Real nice universe you got here...be a real shame if something, I dunno, happened to it all on account of you didn't buy this here comic book.*

With that, I hope you will enjoy the words and pictures waiting for you behind this note, and that you will join us for volume three, *The Resistance: That Day A Comet Hit the Earth and the Only People Who Survived and Got On the Ship to a Nicer World with Plenty of Food and Ample Parking Were AWA Subscribers Just Saying*.

Stay safe.

- J. Michael Straczynski

Character design sketches by C.P. Smith

C.P. Smith

This comic is dedicated to Kenneth Martin: father, veteran, and comic shop owner. I wandered into Ken's store, The Comic Box, when I was seven, and the love and passion I discovered inside lives on in *The Resistance: Uprising*.

This spring, Ken passed away, and for one last day The Comic Box roared back to life. Twenty years after closing, the regulars from "The Box" got together. We laughed, cried, and Ken's love was everywhere. It was like nothing had changed.

Thank you, Ken Martin and the whole Martin family. Ken, I'll miss you forever.

- C.P. Smith

# DR. VINK

## WITH A VA-VA-VA

A DR. VINK POOR MAN'S RIP

LIBRARY LOANS THROUGH OVERDRIVE + KINDLE
RIPPED WITH CALIBRE DEDRM

...AND I AM NOT A NUT BAG